

In conversation

Afzal Sharif: A penchant for comic roles

ERSHAD KAMOL

AFZAL Sharif is firmly established in Bangladeshi filmdom as well as the small screen in the role of comic characters. Going back in time, Sharif asserts that he embarked on his acting career on stage in 1984. As a member of Theatre, Afzal was a regular on stage till 1995. The stage plays in which he has performed are *Jamidar Darpan*, *Khotobi-kkhato*, *Shat Ghat*, *Kanakori*, *Rakkhushi* and *Mahapurush*.

Watching his performance in the stage play titled *Mahapurush*, eminent director Humayun Ahmed picked him for the popular TV series *Bahubrihi* in 1988. From then on he became popular for his rendering of insolent and comic characters.

Said Afzal, "Though I won appreciation for my performance in *Bahubrihi*, I consider the play *Unmesh*, directed by Abul Hayat, as my big break. In *Unmesh*, I performed as the protagonist. Since then directors both in film and TV media have been opting for me."

Afzal's first film was *Padma Nadir Majhi* (1992), directed by Indian filmmaker Goutam Ghose. From that point he took interest in films rather than stage and TV. Subsequent performances in movies such as *Dangafasad*, *Abdar*, *Banglar Bou*, and *Natojanu*, made him a popular name in Bangladeshi filmdom.



Afzal Sharif (L) with co-actors in a scene from a film

Why comedy? Said Afzal in response: "It's not true that I act only in comic roles. In some films I've played the part of the antagonist. But, my directors prefer to cast me in such roles since my performance is natural and entertaining to the masses."

Like many other film actors, Afzal Sharif is also hopeful about the future of Dhaliwood. While admitting that the film industry was temporarily derailed because of some mediocre directors, he

points out that the situation is improving. Overall remuneration of actors should be increased so that talented youngsters can take it up as a profession, he said. To quote him, "Only the lead characters in Bangladeshi filmdom get a handsome amount. Moreover, because of faulty acoustics in movie theatres, dialogues are not always audible. The actors use monotonous high-pitched voice modulation that goes against the demand of the sequence."

As for the future, Afzal is eager to become a film director. He said, "Most of the renowned directors in the country such as Subhash Dutta, Amjad Hossain and Dilip Biswas in their early days were popular 'comedians'. I believe performing in comic characters is challenging. To do it successfully one needs to have keen observation. A successful actor can become a quality director."

Call for entry in 17th National Art Exhibition

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy has called for submitting art works for the 17th National Art Exhibition. The exhibition, organised by Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, is scheduled to begin from April 2, says a press release.

The best entry in the exhibition will be awarded. Three others will receive honorary prizes. Painting, print, sculpture and installation arts will feature in the exhibition.

Any Bangladeshi national of over 22 years of age is entitled to participate in the exhibition. The Academy requests aspirants to submit photographs and colour slides of not more than three recent works by any artist. The photographs and colour-slides should reach the Department of Fine Arts of the Academy between February 9 to 19.

Small screen

'Klanto Shomoye' on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial *Klanto Shomoye*, centering on an aged couple on the look out for a daughter-in-law, will be aired on Channel i at 6:00 pm tonight. When the couple do succeed in finding a match for their son Ashik, for unknown reasons he disapproves of getting married at all. What happens next is for the viewers to discover.

The cast of the play includes Fakhrul Hasan Bairagi, Mahfuz Ahmed, Tonima Hamid, Oindrila, Sumaiya Shimu and others. Written by Tahsin Khan, the serial is directed by Raihan Khan.



Fakhrul Hasan Bairagi and Sumaiya Shimu in a scene from the serial

'Purakirtir Bangladesh': A call for preservation of heritage



The Mirzapur Shahi Jame Masjid in Panchogaar, featured in one of the episodes

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Purakirtir Bangladesh, a documentary programme, is currently running on ATN Bangla. The programme is aired fortnightly and highlights the archaeological sites of our country -- some high profile and some relatively unknown -- in need of immediate preservation.

It might come as a surprise, but our country can be a treasure trove for archaeologists and enthusiasts. In every nook and corner of this country there are historical structures, mostly neglected and in shambles. The programme focuses on such sites and brings them into the public eye.

Purakirtir Bangladesh is directed by Zillur Rahman and is based on the research work of Fazlul Haq Akash. Tonight's episode of the programme will feature the archaeological site of Horipur Rajbari in Thakurgaon.

Weaving

A proud heritage of Chittagong Hill Tracts

JASIM MAJUMDER, Khagrachhari

The 13 minor indigenous communities of Chittagong Hill Tracts (CHT) have a deep

rooted culture. One of these is weaving. Most of the women, including Chakma, Marma, Tripura, Rakhain, Tanchangya, Khumi, Baniugchi and Bome, have the expertise to

weave cloth. Their products include *khaddar chadar*, sari, bedcover, warm clothes and decorative household items. In fact, in some communities the skill of weaving is considered as the most essential criterion for marriage.

While cotton has to be collected from at least 150 local markets in the three hill districts of Khagrachhari, Rangamati and Banderban, the locals have the requisite machines (both handloom and waist loom) to weave cloth. By and large the machines are crafted out of local bamboo and wood. There are 20 handloom-based textile enterprises in the CHT, all located in Rangamati district while at least 50,000 waist loom based textile enterprises dot the three hill districts

After making clothes, bedcovers, bags or other handicrafts, the indigenous people stop by at local institutions such as Boyon, Hill Fashion, Banarashi, Paharika and Bain to sell their products.

"One full day goes into producing two bedcovers which we weave from 1kg cotton," said Konika Chakma, from Perachhara under Khagrachhari sadar upazila. Besides this they also make at least three handbags per day.

"Many rootless families have maintained their households through weaving. The small enterprises have boosted their confidence and given them financial strength," said Dr Sudin Kumar Chakma, a retired principal of Khagrachhari Government College.



PHOTO: STAR

Indigenous women prepare colourful handmade items from cotton

A surreal gig for Pacino in Dali biopic



Al Pacino

young art dealer.

The film's producer, Room 9 Entertainment (*Thank You for Smoking*) originally acquired the project written by John Salvati, based on Laurysens' memoir *Dali and I*. Niccol is rewriting the script.

Pacino next appears in Warner Bros' *Ocean's Thirteen*.

'Sunshine' scoops surprise film win

Low-budget film *Little Miss Sunshine* has won a key movie award that is one of the main pointers to Oscar success.

In a surprise decision, the quirky family comedy was named best picture by the Producers Guild of America (PGA).

Little Miss Sunshine had been seen as an Oscar's outsider - but beat fancied contenders *Babel*, *The Departed*, *The Queen* and

Dreamgirls to the PGA award.

The winner of best picture at the Oscars has matched the PGA's choice in 11 of the last 17 years.

Little Miss Sunshine, which stars Toni Collette and Steve Carell, follows a dysfunctional family determined to get their seven-year-old daughter into the finals of a beauty pageant.

Source: Internet



Toni Collette (left) and Steve Carell (right) star in Little Miss Sunshine

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, 1:00 pm, 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.

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 Shukhti Poribar
11:40 Desher Gaan
12:05 Maa O Shishur Kotha
12:30 Drama Serial: Swapno Shonar Gaon

01:00 Shobar Jonno Shikha
01:30 Mati O Manush
02:15 Musical Programme
02:40 Cartoon
03:05 Cartoon
03:30 Educational Programe
04:00 Amader Angina
04:30 Band Show
06:40 Tagore Song
07:00 Quiz Quiz
07:30 Drama Serial: Uzan
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
09:25 Rang Berong
10:30 Probash Mela

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Aktel Anyodrishti
12:15 Amar Computer
01:30 Shur Chhobi
02:30 Talk Show
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amar Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Aha Ki Anondo
04:20 Musical Programme
05:10 Ainar Shamney
05:45 Parakirtir Bangladesh
06:20 Aktel Protidin
08:00 Drama Serial: Shokal Shondha
08:40 Desher Poristhiti Joruri

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone
09:50 Trilumatra
11:05 Cricket Online (Live)
12:30 Citycell Tarokakothon
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbad Potrey Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Selected Drama
04:05 Amader Gaan
04:25 Nirbachoni Olympiad
04:35 Sharif Melamine
04:50 Shangeetmela
05:30 Sa Re Ga Ma
06:00 I Speed
06:20 Klanto Shomoy
06:20 Drama Serial: Ochhena Adhar
07:50 Talkshow: Aktel Shaf Kotha
09:35 Rup Rohoshyo
10:00 Drama Serial: Shada
12:00 Ranger Swapno
12:00 Grameenphone Ajker Shangbadpotro

ntv

08:35 Ajker Shokal
09:30 Khobor Shondhaney
10:05 Bhinno Swader
10:30 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan
03:50 Drama Serial: Bhalo Basha Mondo Basha Gallery
04:25 Din Dorpon/ Itihasher
05:15 El Diney
05:20 Apnar Jigyasha
06:20 Shubho Shondhya
06:50 K Taharey Chinitley
08:25 Drama Serial: Labonyo Probha
09:00 Joyitar Joy Jatra
09:50 Drama Serial: Neer
11:25 Din Dorpon
09:10 Talk Show: Khola Money
10:00 Look At Me
10:30 Praner Manush

PICK OF THE DAY



Ochena Adhar
On Channel i at 6:20pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Bulbul Ahmed, Diti

12:00 Achhey Praney
01:00 Cinema Ar Cinema
01:35 Aj Potrikay
03:45 Islamic Programme
04:15 Black and White
04:20 Ict Today or Tomorrow
05:10 Talk Show: El Mon
06:00 Ajker Bangladesh
06:35 Amar Desh
08:00 Shapmochon
08:50 Magazine Programme: Char Deyal
10:45 Rtv Exclusive
08:40 Shuprovat Bangladesh
09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:30 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
04:00 Gaaner Khata
04:30 Bioscope

05:15 Stop n Rock
06:00 Saaji Bela
06:30 Top News
06:45 Itihasher Path Dhirey
07:00 Nongor
08:15 Olpo Sholpo Golpo
09:00 Rupanator Golpo
09:30 Fusion Biz
10:50 Expression
08:35 Shubho Shokal
09:05 Raat Birateay
09:30 Shamol Bangla
10:10 Drama Serial: Krishno Pokho
11:10 Public Forum
12:05 Drama Serial: Guest
02:30 Amader Ranna Ghar
03:05 Drama
04:20 Desher Pathay

STAR MOVIES

05:00 Cinebit Shada Kalo
05:30 Diner Sheshey
08:10 Drama Serial: Shonar Phool
09:15 Agamir Kontho
08:45 The Making of the Manchurian Candidate
12:00 Pride and Prejudice
12:00 Troy
03:15 Intersection
05:15 The American President
07:30 King's Ransom
09:30 Hellboy
12:00 Rome 07: Pharsalus
01:15 Rome 08: Caesarion
02:30 King's Ransom
05:00

10:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
11:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
12:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
01:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
01:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
02:00 Bhabhi
02:30 Kesar
03:00 Saarrthi
03:30 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
04:00 Kahiin To Hoga
04:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
05:00 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasma
06:30 Mickey Mouse And Friends
07:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
08:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
08:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa
09:00 Kasauti Zindagi Kay
09:30 Kaun Banega Crorepati-Srk
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii
11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi
11:30 Kahiin To Hoga

STAR WORLD

09:00 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
01:00 Frasier
01:30 Commander In Chief
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:30 Table For Three
06:00 Arrested Development
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus
09:30 Kumkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus

08:00 Seinfeld
08:30 Falcon Beach
09:30 Ghost Whisperer
10:30 Commander In Chief
11:30 Table For Three
09:30 Massive Engines with Chris Barrie
10:00 Mean Machines
10:30 Future Perfect
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Honey We're Killing The Kids
01:30 Wild India Week
02:30 Detective Stories
03:30 Future Perfect
04:30 Nigel Specials
05:30 Extreme Engineering
06:30 Life on the Edge
07:30 Wild India Week
08:30 Honey We're Killing the Kids
09:30 Bringing Home Baby
10:00 Amazing Baby Videos
10:30 Man Made Marvels Asia
11:30 I Should n't Be Alive

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

09:30 The Simpsons
09:30 The Oprah Winfrey Show
10:30 My Wife And Kids
11:00 The King Of Queen
11:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:30 Everybody Loves Raymond
01:00 Frasier
01:30 Commander In Chief
02:30 Oprah Winfrey Show
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
04:00 General Hospital
05:30 Table For Three
06:00 Arrested Development
06:30 The Simpsons
07:00 Cheers
07:30 Friends

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:30 Deep Jungle
09:30 The New Mafia
10:30 Telemall: Sauna Belt
11:00 Shop 24 Seven
11:15 Global Sky Shop
11:30 Nat Geo Encores
12:30 Crash Scene Investigation
01:30 Zero Hour
02:30 Be The Creature
03:30 The New Mafia
04:30 Nat Geo Junior
05:00 Nat Geo Genius
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Nat Geo Junior
06:30 The New Mafia
07:30 Triumph of Life
08:30 Naked Science

09:30 Human Combustion
10:30 Going Global
11:30 Rated W
12:30 Ashes Legends (Cricket)
01:30 Gillette World Sport 2006 (Inter)
02:00 Full Toss? Haste Rehna Boss (The)
02:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B
06:00 Adventure Tri Series 2006 (Adven)
06:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
07:00 2007 Euromihoes
07:30 Dakar (Auto Rac)
07:30 Australian Open 2007 Presented B
08:30 Ashes Heroes (Cricket)
09:00 Down Under - India's Tour Of Aus
09:30 Cricket Crazy (Cricket)
10:30 Tna Archive (Wrestling)
11:30 Scoop - Phi Special (Field Hocke)

STAR SPORTS

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 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
10:00 Close Encounters (Cricket)
10:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)
11:00 Sportscenter Asia (Sport News)
11:30 Commonwealth Bank Series 2006-07

ESPN