

CULTURAL FEAST



Nazrul Music Conference

Organiser: Nazrul Sangeet Shilpi
Parishad
Activities: Award giving ceremony, recitation from Nazrul's poems, dance drama
Venue: National Museum Auditorium
Date: May 22-23
Time: 7:30pm

Nazrul Anniversary Celebration

Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Activities: Children's art and Nazrul song competition, cultural programme, book fair and discussion
Venue: Nazrul Institute Auditorium
Date: May 23-27

Nazrul Boimela

Organiser: Nazrul Institute
Venue: Central Public Library, Shahbag
Date: May 25-June 14

Film Screening

Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Alliance Francaise
May 23 Venus Beauty Institute Eight Women
Time: 3pm onwards

Musical Soiree

Organiser: Profil
Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: May 23
Time: 7pm

Classical Music Soiree

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshkar Goshthi
Artists: Karim Shahabuddin, Arju Akher Baby and Shahinur Reza
Venue: Bishwa Shahlitya Kendra, Dhaka
Date: May 31
Time: 7pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Stolen Forests
Photographer: Philip Gain and Ronald Halder
Venue: Drik Gallery, House 58, Road 15A, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-24
Time: 3pm-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition

Title: Anadi Kumar Boiragi's Quest for Self-Entity
Venue: Gallery Zoom, Alliance Francaise, 26 Mirpur Road, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-31
Time: 9am-12pm, 5pm-9pm

Collage Workshop

Title: Collagekalpa
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 27/5, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi
Date: May 20-26
Time: 12pm-8pm

"Our young generation is least interested in Dhaliwood"

-- Sohanoor Rahman Sohan

ERSHAD KAMOL

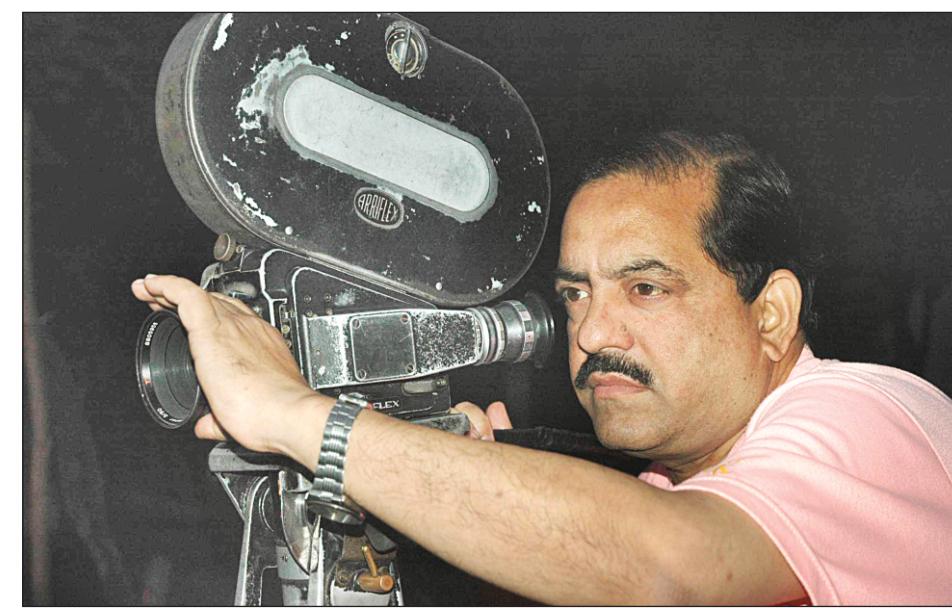
SOHANOOR Rahman Sohan is one of the very few film directors who are continuing making quality movies in the contemporary Dhaliwood film industry. With a few exceptions most of the 28 films directed by him are romantic ones. Of these, movies such as *Keyamat Thekey Keyamat, Shojon, Amar Ghar Amar Behesht* and *Shanti Chai* have become blockbusters.

Why is he inclined to romantic movies? Sohan's response: "In the current social scenario, we see violence everywhere. I want to provide the mass with some relief. Which is why my preferred theme is romance. I usually make entertaining films with family values. But, I've also made action films."

Sohan began his career in 1977 as an assistant to renowned filmmaker Shibly Sadik. As an independent filmmaker Sohan's debut film was *Biswas Abiswas* (1988). His popularity surged with the hit film *Keyamat Thekey Keyamat* (a remake of the Indian blockbuster *Qayamat Se Qayamat Tak*). At the initial stage of his career Sohan used to make three films every year on an average. But these days he does not make that many films.

Why? Replies Sohan, "Dhaliwood film industry is now run by some illiterate people, who are here to make a few quick bucks and don't mind providing cheap entertainment to the audience. Our mainstream movie industry has become difficult for directors who have any aesthetic sense. It's true that a few independent filmmakers are continuing their endeavour to make sensible movies, however, their target audience is not the masses. Most of them make films to participate in the international film festivals. We can safely say that the mainstream movie industry in Bangladesh is now stagnant."

Like many of his contemporaries, Sohan accuses the ongoing trend of vulgarity and lack of fund as major causes behind the decline in our movie industry. According to him, these days, it has become difficult to make a 20 percent profit with "decent" movies, which used to be a cent percent profitable industry at one



Sohanoor Rahman Sohan

point.

Elected general secretary of Bangladesh Film Directors' Association twice, Sohan, is the current vice president of the organisation. The filmmaker says, "We have taken several steps against vulgar movies including public protests. Even the government has enacted stronger laws regarding the issue. However, these laws are not properly implemented because of certain officials of questionable integrity in Bangladesh Censor Board.

"Bangladeshi filmdom has come to earn such an ill repute that young talents are not at all interested in Dhaliwood. Once, people used to call me a 'moulder of new talents', as many prominent actors of today including Salman Shah, Moushumi, Ferdous, Poppy and Shakil Khan were introduced to the audience through my films. I rarely come across young talented actors nowadays, as they are interested in TV plays, rather than films."

But, the famed director is optimistic. He thinks that it is a challenge to filmmakers, actors and other individuals deeply involved with the industry to do something positive and restore the good name of Dhaliwood. Sohanor Rahman Sohan believes that the ongoing trend of corruption in two institutions - Film Development Corporation (FDC) and Bangladesh Censor Board - must be controlled. Secondly, skilled technicians must be utilised in FDC. Piracy in the market (illegally copied DVDs and VCDs) must be stopped.

To quote Sohan, "Because of the shortage of functional movie theatres, the urban middle-class has stopped going to movies. Moreover, pirated CDs of movies are available in the market. When people buy these CDs and watch them at home, our film producers are deprived of royalty and the existence of our movie theatres are further threatened."

Debal Chandra Sarker: Talented flutist in Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

At the stroke of midnight when the whole town sleeps, Debal's *banshi* sings by the river Mogra.

The gifted flutist dreams of



Debal Chandra Sarker(C) performs at a programme

Brigitte Bardot on Cannes, celebrity and career

She was the object of desire for most of the male population in the 1950's and 60's.

Now, Brigitte Bardot uses her status as a celebrity to bring publicity to the animal rights campaigns that she is spearheading, protesting the abuse of creatures including seal cubs and dogs.

In an exclusive interview, CNN talked to this star-turned-activist about Cannes, her career and her recent work promoting the humane treatment of animals.

CNN: Can you tell us about your first impressions of Cannes and your memories of the festival?

Brigitte Bardot: The first time that I came to Cannes, I think it was in 1953, I was 18 and unknown. I came with Roger Vadim, my husband, who was a journalist.

At the time of this first visit in 1953, I followed Vadim as a reporter on an American airplane carrier en route to Cannes. On board, the commandant received Leslie Caron, Lana Turner, Gary Cooper, Kirk Douglas and lots of others for a party. Totally unknown and very intimidated, I hid behind Vadim when the commandant greeted me and shouted to the crew in the middle of the bridge, "That's Brigitte!" Not knowing how to answer, I said, "Hello, men!" Everyone went crazy! The sailors lifted me up and carried me around in triumph, shouting, "Brigitte! Brigitte!" They had no idea who I was because I



Brigitte Bardot

was nobody.

In 1967, it was far less funny. The crowd and the press were hysterical, and hustled me, crushed me and abused me. It's an atrocious thing to remember, but it was to please my husband at the time, Gunter Sachs, who was showing a film made in Kenya, which I'm sure wouldn't have been shown without my presence. That was 40 years ago, and I've never been back.

CNN: What made you a French icon?

Brigitte Bardot: I don't know. I think that I arrived and left at the right time. My wild and free side unsettled some, and unwedged others.

CNN: Your foundation has met with great success promoting the rights of animals. What are its current projects?

Brigitte Bardot: There are lots of them: anti-fur campaigns, the horsemeat industry, breeding conditions, the transport and slaughter of animals for their meat... The task is long, exhausting and often discouraging.

CNN: When you think back to your cinematic career, what makes you the most proud?

Brigitte Bardot: That it gave me the profile that today allows me to fight against the suffering of animals.

CNN: Out of your numerous films, which is your favourite, and why?

Brigitte Bardot: "En cas de malheur" with Jean Gabin. I was face to face with a superstar of French cinema, which intimidated me greatly at the time. "La Vérité" by Henri Georges Clouzot. A superb role but a devilish Clouzot. "L'Ours et la Poupe" with Jean Pierre Cassel, who made a wonderful partner and friend.

CNN: Can you describe the spirit of Cannes in five words?

Brigitte Bardot: Dream, glamour, glitz, international, artificial.

Source: Internet

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Aloy-e-Bhurban Bhora

On Channel-i at 9:35pm

Talkshow

Host: Aly Zaker

11:30 Din Dorpon

Rtv

01:05 Cinema Cinema

01:30 Gane Shure Taruney

02:30 Notun Chhobir Gaan

03:10 Drama Serial: Bhalobashar Rang

03:45 Shapla Shaluk

04:20 Cooking Show

05:20 Islamic Programme

06:20 Talk Show: Durniti

Mukto Orthoniti

08:00 Drama Serial: Noyontara

08:45 Drama Serial: Bohemian

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm. and

12:15am

04:00 Kachhey Keu Durey

Rupantor Golpo

04:45 Gauner Kotha

Kothar Gaan

05:15 Tritiyomatra

Sports Time

11:05 Citycell Tarokathan

12:30 Ebon Cinemar

Gaan

01:05 Shangbadpotre

Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

Mega Serial: Prio

Bash

Musical Programme

05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin

06:40 Mati O Manush

Protidin Banglades

08:30 Musical Programme

09:05 Drama Serial: Obhiman Porbo

Ekai Shekal

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi

Ajker Shangbadpotro

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potre

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiyomatra

Sports Time

11:05 Citycell Tarokathan

12:30 Ebon Cinemar

Gaan

01:05 Shangbadpotre

Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

Mega Serial: Prio

Bash

Musical Programme

05:30 Mukti Juddho Protidin

06:40 Mati O Manush

Protidin Banglades

08:30 Musical Programme

09:05 Drama Serial: Obhiman Porbo

Ekai Shekal

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi

Ajker Shangbadpotro

12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potre

Bangladesh

09:45 Public Reaction

09:50 Tritiyomatra

Sports Time

11:05 Citycell Tarokathan