

CULTURALFEAST

**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: Protti

Venue: Sufia Kamal Auditorium, National Musium

Date: May 23
Time: 7pm

Classical Music Soiree

Organiser: Shuddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi

Artists: Karim Shahabuddin, Arju Akhter Baby and Shahinur Reza

Venue: Bishwa Shahitya Kendra, Dhaka

Date: May 31
Time: 7pm

Photography Exhibition

Title: Stolen Forestes

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

Exhibition

Title: Collagekalpa

Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, House 275/F, Road 27 (old) Dhanmondi

Date: May 20-26
Time: 12pm-8pm

"Our young generation is least interested in Dhaliwood"

-- Sohanoor Rahman Sohan

ERSHAD KAMOL

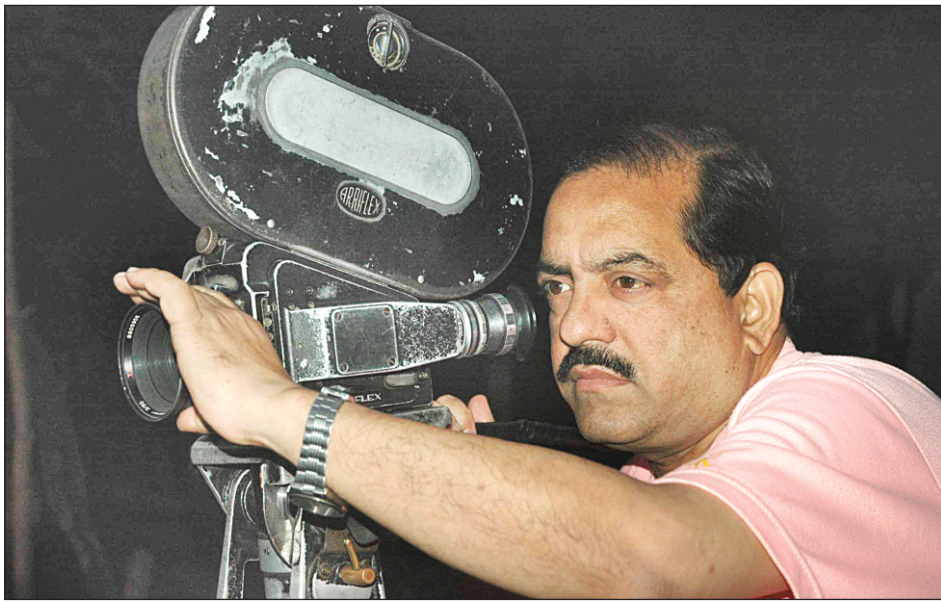
SOHANOOR Rahman Sohan is one of the very few film directors who are continuing making quality movies in the contemporary Dhaliwood film industry. With a few exceptions most of the 28 films directed by him are romantic ones. Of these, movies such as *Keyamat Thekey Keyamat*, *Shojon*, *Amar Ghar Amar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

Twenty five-year-old Debal Chandra Sarker captivates his listeners with his melodious silver flute. His entrancing notes, often accompanying *kirtan*, at different religious and cultural programmes in the greater Mymensingh region, have won him the adulation of local music enthusiasts. Devotees of Lord Krishna often adoringly call him 'Shyam'.

Debal was born in Keshjani village, Netrakona. Apparently at the tender age of 10, he became fascinated with *banshi* (flute). A self-taught flutist, he picked up the rudiments of the instrument through regular practice and dedication.

Due to financial constraints, he could not go for higher education. After SSC, he took basic computer courses and now earns his living as a computer operator in Netrakona town.

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

The gifted flutist dreams of

playing for a greater audience at cultural programmes held outside Netrakona as well.



PHOTO: STAR

Debal Chandra Sarkar(C) performs at a programme

'Pride and Joy': Shamilka's book on underprivileged children

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Arriving in Dhaka during the 2004 flood, Shamilka van der Zanden was mesmerised at the people's endurance. She made a resolution to "make a difference" for two reasons. Firstly, she was struck by the resilience, determination and the ability to keep up a positive attitude of the Bangladeshi people, no matter how adverse the circumstances. The film *Happiest People on Earth* by director Shaheen Dill-Riaz had left a deep impression on her. Secondly, education is a very important aspect of Shamilka's philosophy. "How do you explain to a underprivileged child that he/she cannot have access to a decent education?" she enquires.

To this end, in July 2005 she volunteered to become the treasurer of a Dhaka school trying to meet the needs of children from local slums. The school, founded in

1990, accommodates about 150 children of various ages, taking classes in two shifts because of a paucity of space. The school runs entirely on donations (the board is actively involved in fundraising) and deserving candidates can avail of free education.

Shamilka suffers from multiple sclerosis, but believes that being physically challenged only further motivates her into action. She took up photography under the tutelage of Mahmud of Map Photo Agency last November. "An idea burgeoned and following brainstorming, was distilled into a book. Mahmud gave me the courage to keep going", Shamilka credits her teacher with the crux of the project.

During the course of five months, Shamilka visited the school intensively, taking a flurry of photos. The result is an endearing book launched earlier this

month titled *Pride and Joy*. It contains marvellous photos of children; evidently they are happy as their smiles say it all. The book mirrors Shamilka's attitude towards Bangladeshi people.

"My family and friends pitched in. It was such a delightful event; it brought much happiness to so many people," Shamilka beamed. The book is almost entirely funded by sponsors and all proceeds will go directly to the school. Copies are mainly destined for Western countries and the book has been marketed through Shamilka's personal contacts network.

It is satisfying for Shamilka that, through fundraising efforts like this, the school can continue to flourish, particularly as her connection with the school has brought her so much contentment. A staggering 600 copies have been sold so far.



Tiny tots break into suppressed laughter in a photograph by Shamilka

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, "Bridget! Bridget!" 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 Vêrité" by Henri Georges Clouzot. A superb role but a devilish Clouzot. "L'Ours et la Poupée" with Jean Pierre Cassel, who was 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 Bhuvan Bhora

On Channel-i at 9:35pm

Talkshow

Host: Aly Zaker



Heroes

On Star World at 9:30pm

TV Series

Cast: Jack Coleman, James Kyson Lee

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 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 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 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.

News Headlines (English) at 8:05pm

Rtv

News (Bangla) at 10:15pm, and 12:15am

BTv

08:45 Bishwa Bichitra

09:05 Shomapti

11:15 Drama Serial: Shongbad Potrey

12:05 Maa O Shishur

Kotha

12:30 Selected

Programme

01:30 Shukhi Poribar

02:15 Sisimpur

02:40 Quiz Quiz

03:05 Cartoon

03:30 Cricket Shekha

04:00 Shiplo Prangon

04:30 Shopnil Agami

05:05 Obhijatri

05:30 Hijol Tomal

06:40 Musical Programme

07:00 Mati O Manush

08:30 Protidin Bangladesh

08:35 Musical Programme

09:05 Drama Serial: Obhiman Porbo

Ekal Shekal

09:30

ATN Bangla

10:30 Talk show: Aktel

Onyodristi

Talk show: Meet the press

11:05

12:15 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: Bohemiyon

09:20 Drama Serial: Neer

12:00

Khancha

Grameenphone

Lead News

CHANNEL-i

09:30 Shongbad Potrey

Bangladesh

Public Reaction

Tritiyomatra

11:05 Sports Time

12:30 Citycell Tarokathan

01:05 Ebong Cinemar

Gaan

01:30 Shangbhadpotrey

Bangladesh

01:45 Public Reaction

02:40 Mega Serial: Prio

Bash

04:05 Musical Programme

05:30 Mukti Judho Protidin

07:50 Meri Ador-e Gora

Bhobishoyot

08:25 Mega Serial: Adbhutore

09:35 Aloy-e Bhuvan

Bhora

10:00 Drama Serial: Nishidho Bonobhumi

Grameenphone

Ajker Shangbadpotro

12:00

ntv

01:05 Japan Video Topic

02:30 Chokkor

03:15 Drama Serial: Ranger Manush

03:50 Drama Serial: Neer

04:25 Enechhi Shurjer

Hashi

05:15 Ithasher Ei Din-e

05:20 Apnar Jigyasha

06:50 Ki Kotha Tahar

Shatey

08:15 Cooking Show