

Weaving a wizardry of words

In conversation with Emdadul Haque Milon

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

EMDADUL Haque Milon attained popularity as an author in the '80s. His wizardry of words has won him the hearts of many. The writer has branched out and become a TV personality through writing TV plays and hosting a talk show titled *Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey*. The Daily Star recently caught up with the busy writer. Excerpts from the interview:

What are you writing now?
I am involved in several areas now. In the past my writing was limited to short stories, novels or articles for newspapers. Now I'm also writing for television. I have written a number of plays in the last couple of years. Currently I'm working on two TV series.

You started working as a journalist recently, but did not continue. What was reason for that?

I got involved with *Doinik Amar Desh*, with the desire to do something new, six months before the paper started publishing. However, I felt that my aspirations were facing impediments. I saw no other option but to resign.

You are a popular talk show host now...

Several TV channels offered me to host at least one talk show for them. I'm hosting two talk shows currently -- one on ntv called *Ki Kotha Tahar Shathey* and the other on Rtv on teacher-student relations. Recently I have taken part in another talk show on family-issues titled *Album*, expected to be aired soon on Channel-I.

You are primarily an author, why are you absent in shows on literature?



Emdadul Haque Milon

I have not thought of doing any programme on literature or writers as of yet. However, I hope I'll be a part of programmes related to literature in the coming days.

You once said that you were

contemplating making films, any development on that?

Though I would love to make films, I don't think I have the technical expertise required for the job. I'm not thinking of making films right

now. However, I do have plans to work on some scripts. At present I'm working on a piece titled *Meyetir Naam Aaina*. Salahuddin Lavlu will direct the film. Besides, Kabori is making a film based on my novel *Priyo*.

Do you feel this generation of writers enjoy more opportunities than your generation?

When we started, getting out work published was quite difficult. Today one can publish a book or write TV play with considerable ease. I'd say this generation of writer certainly has it easy.

You contemporaries and writers from this generation whose works have impressed you...

Not many quality writers have emerged in the last fifteen years, as should be. Anisul Haque is certainly one of the best. Dr. Muhammad Zafar Iqbal is extremely popular though he usually writes for adolescent readers. Sumanta Aslam is quite promising. But I do not want to make comments on them right now. Anisul Haque and Masum Reza have written some impressive TV plays.

You have won several awards, which was the most gratifying?

I have received many awards in my country. But last year I received an international honour that was rare achievement for a Bangladeshi. Every year Japan Foundation, an organisation of the Japan Government, selects an Asian writer to deliver four lectures on his/her native literature or culture at four international centres. Last year the organisation selected me to deliver lectures on Bangladeshi literature and culture. It was one of my proudest moments.

Prachyanat's production of "Raja"

Introducing multimedia theatre to Bangladeshi audience

AHSAN HABIB

Theatre group Prachyanat is all set to launch the first ever multimedia theatre production in Bangladesh by bringing to stage a Tagore classic, *Raja*. Prachyanat's production, "*Raja...ebong annannyo*" ("King of the Dark Chamber" ... and others), is an experiment pushing the boundaries with politically and socially relevant ideas, as well as visually stimulating live performance that is accessible to a wide-ranging audience," said Azad Abul Kalam, director of the play.

The production utilises media technologies as an integral component to connect actors to the audience and create a virtual space. "In this digital age, use of electronics and multimedia can become a significant part in modern theatre for greater connectivity with the audience," believes Azad.

Explaining the conceptual design of the play, Azad informs that, throughout the performance, the audience will experience performance by actors interspersed by audio-visual clips of contemporary world events. Moreover, a ramp will be used to introduce certain characters as modern day individuals in the context of showbiz reality.

Themes are drawn from the Tagore's classic *Raja*. The story evolves in an imaginary country, in somewhat ancient times, portraying a utopian governance where no one sees the king of the land but his presence is felt in every sphere of life. There is no exploitation, justice is always



Actors of Prachyanat rehearsing for the play

upheld without discrimination and humanity is cherished.

"The underlying theme of *Raja* relates to the contemporary time in the sense that it contradicts the existing socio-political structure to a large extent. In this age of power abuse, exploitation, and aggression at every level, the benevolence of one 'Raja' mirrors the exact opposite. As we struggle to claw our way out of a web of geo-political victimisation, *Raja* helps us define the void and provides future directives. Rabindranath Tagore's *Raja* bears strong relevance to current world politics," Azad explains the reasons for turning to Tagore's classic text.

"Breaking away from the structure of traditional Tagorian performance and adopting a modernistic approach are much needed in order

to represent *Raja* in the current context and to make it relatable to the audience," says Azad.

The play is largely generated during the collaborative rehearsal process when all the elements -- concept, text, designers, performers, and directors -- have the opportunity to interact with and influence each other. Everyone enjoys freedom during this creative process. "My job was more of a conceptualiser than of a director. I have incorporated my concepts and placed the story in contemporary global situation. I have taken elements from the original work, as much as I need. It is a kind of an exploration," Azad explains his role in the play as the director.

"The fusion of real and virtual space, the mixed-reality perfor-

mance," argues Azad, ruptures the demarcation of the real and the virtual, creating a new kind of space. The relationship between the performers and the participants, within this structure, involves a two-way flow of information. The play has that scope of interaction with the audience.

Azad shares his experience of being a part of collaborative works in Denmark and Japan in multimedia theatre and hopes, "Audience here will have an entirely new experience of watching a performance where theatre and video come together and complement each other."

CULTURALFEAST

Art Exhibition
Title: Lines of Madness
Venue: Goethe Institute Gallery
Date: June 4-14
Time: 10am-8pm (closed Friday and Saturday)

Nazrul Anniversary Celebration
Organiser: Chhayanaout
Venue: Shawkot Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 9
Time: 7pm

Theatre
Troupe: Palakar
Title: Mangula
Venue: Experimental Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: June 10
Time: 7:00pm

Dilip kumar Retrospective
Organiser: The High Commission of India in Dhaka
June 9 Mashaal
June 10 Dunia
Time: 6pm
Venue: Indian Cultural Centre, House 25, Road 96, Gulshan-2
Complementary passes can be collected from the High Commission of India, House 2 Road 142 Gulshan 1 & the Indian Cultural Centre House 25 Road 96, Gulshan 2

TV Watch

Amjad Hossain in "Amar Ami" tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Hosted by Aupi Karim, the popular talk show *Amar Ami* will be aired tonight at 8:55pm on Banglavisn. Each episode features one or more noted personality, usually from the cultural arena. The show highlights achievements of the guest and

gives an insight to his/her off screen life as well. Noted filmmaker Amjad Hossain and his son actor-director Sohel Arman are the guests in tonight's episode.

Amjad Hossain dominated the Bangladeshi film industry in its golden period with National Award-winning films like *Golapi Ekhon Train-*

e. award-winning. Amjad is also a popular among the TV audience for his unforgettable portrayal of "Jobbar Ali". Sohel Arman is one of the busiest TV actors now. Sohel has tried his hand at direction as well. The father and son duo will share their experiences on and off screen in tonight's show.



Sohel Arman and Amjad Hossain in tonight's *Amar Ami*

Movie Watch

"Ocean's Thirteen": As flashy as it gets

Ocean's Thirteen, is a gas; it's lighter than air, prettier than life, a romp, a goof and an attentively oiled machine. The master of ceremonies, Steven Soderbergh, having come down the mountain of his own grandiose ambitions, is working it hard here and working it very well. The screenplay, from the new team members Brian Koppelman and David Levien, moves fast and makes you laugh, partly because the elaborate plot often makes no seeming sense. But sense can be awfully overrated at times, particularly with an enterprise like this, which pushes at the limits of conventional narrative filmmaking.

This third time around, George Clooney's Danny Ocean has returned to Las Vegas to bail out his old buddy and former mentor Reuben (Elliott Gould as the spirit of 1970s cinema idiosyncrasy), who has recently been taken for a pricey ride down chump avenue by a Vegas villain named Willy Bank. Played by a tamped-down, amused and amusing Al Pacino, Willy Bank is a pint-size Trump in oversize eyeglasses and a burnt-orange tan. His second-in-command is Abigail Sponder (Ellen Barkin).

In Soderbergh's Vegas everything rolls smoothly and sleekly and low to the ground, without obvious effort and, most important, without ugliness. America's playground has never looked more glamorous and seductive than it does in the first and most recent *Ocean's*; it's no wonder the casinos play along with whatever nonsense Soderbergh puts into gear, whether it's a blackout (as in the first film) or an absurdly contrived disaster (the third). When Danny Ocean and his Boy Friday, Rusty Ryan (Brad Pitt), stroll across a casino floor, you never see the cigarette burns on the carpeting or the middle-aged men quietly weeping after the night and

their savings are long gone. When they're in town, the promise of Vegas burns as bright as the city's gaudy lights.

You enter a world of visual enchantments. Working under the name Peter Andrews, Soderbergh again shows what an exceptional cinematographer he can be, whether shooting on celluloid or in video, with a particular sensitivity to the narrative and graphical uses of colour. Many of the casino scenes in this *Ocean's* look as softly burnished as gold ingots, as if they had been dipped in a 24-karat finishing bath.

One of the most creatively restless filmmakers working the studio system today, Soderbergh has

for a number of years divided his time and energy between expensive, star-studded productions like the *Ocean's* films and smaller projects like *Bubble* (shot in high-definition digital without professional actors). With any other director, the tendency would be to classify the smaller, cheaper films as personal and the bigger, costlier ventures as strictly professional, pounds of flesh that an artiste like Soderbergh must forfeit for experiments (and box office flops) like *The Good German* and his touching, unloved remake of Andrei Tarkovsky's *Solaris*.

Source: Internet



Matt Damon, George Clooney and Brad Pitt in the film

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, 12:15am.

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

11:15 Musical Programme
11:40 Shukhi Poribar
12:05 Drama Serial: Shubamo Lota
12:30 Mati O Manush
01:00 Bishwa Bichitra
01:30 Maa O Shishur Kotha
02:15 Sisimpur
02:40 Bangla Feature Film
05:05 English Debate
06:10 Ocean Girl
06:40 Matri Basha
07:05 Lok Lokalay
07:30 Shilpo O Shahityo
08:35 Documentary Programme
09:00 Drama
10:30 Musical Programme: Matir Gaan

ATN BANGLA

10:30 Talk show: Aktel Onnondishi
11:05 ATN Music
12:15 Shurer Madhuri
12:45 Shathidin
01:30 Nari
02:40 Drama: Guptobidya
03:45 Talk show: Priojon Shesh Okhor
04:20 Gram Gonjer Khobor
05:00 Talk show: GrammenPhone Nari O Rajniti
06:20 Gondhoraj Samsung Cine Aha
08:00 Mega Serial: The New Sobuj Opera
08:40 Mega Serial: Laal Neel Beguni
09:20 Mega Serial: Ek Jonomey
12:00 Gramenphone Lead News

Channel i

09:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
09:45 Public Reaction
09:50 GrameenPhone Tritiomatra
11:05 Na Bole Kotha
12:30 Citycell Taroka Kathan
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30 Shangbadpotre Bangladesh
01:45 Public Reaction
02:40 Tele Film: Baar Baar Gughu Tumi Kheye Jao Dhan
04:05 Educational Programme
04:40 Shotyer Shondhaney Muktiujho Protidin Harano Shoishob Harano Shompod
05:30 Amar Bangladesh
07:50 Mega Serial: Bhorbar Haat
09:35 Hridoye Mati O Manush
10:00 Drama Serial: Niloy
11:30 Tarzan
12:00 GrameenPhone Ajker Shanbad Potro

Rtv

01:00 Drama of Friday: Dokan
02:30 Bangla Feature Film: Anubhob
05:55 Rtv Exclusive
06:00 Din Protidin
08:00 Dating
11:00 Just Band

Channel 1

08:40 Shuprobhat Bangladesh



Prijon
On ATN Bangla at 3:45pm
Talk show
Today's guests: Shahed, Kaniz Shuborna

09:30 Chokh Mele Dekhi
10:30 Bagan Bilash
11:00 Drama: Neel Rokto
12:05 Telefilm: Ochena Akash
02:00 Music Station
03:30 Drama: Lost Project
04:30 Music Music
05:15 Fusion for Baul
01:05 Japan Video Topic
03:15 Tomader Pelo Bangladesh
04:25 Nupur
04:50 Alok Paat
06:45 Shangkriti Ei
08:15 Shoptahor
08:50 Single Episode Drama: Swapno Shongini
03:15 Bangla Feature Film: Shukh Shanti
05:30 Ei Shoptaher Bishwa
08:00 Drama Serial: Protno Nari
08:30 Uttoradhikari

PICK OF THE DAY



Fantastic Four
On Star Movies at 07:00pm
Genre: Sci-Fi/Action
Cast: Ioan Gruffudd, Jessica Alba

10:00 Drama: Nijamuddiner Bitto Bashona

BANGLAVISION

10:10 Apnar Ki Kichhu Bolar Achhey
11:10 Shomoy Ashomoy
11:40 Media Bhubon
02:40 Drama Serial: Kachhey Durey
03:10 Drama Serial: Dhula Ura Din
04:15 Public Forum
05:00 Ebong Classer Bairey
05:40 Diner Sheshey
06:35 Music Moment
08:15 Drama Serial: Shesh Odhay
08:55 Amar Ami

09:30 Drama Serial: Bachelor Dompoti

STAR MOVIES

08:45 Five Children And It
10:15 The 6th Day
12:20 Flight Of The Phoenix
02:15 On The Lot
03:15 The Ticket
03:45 Charlie's Angels: Full Throttle
05:30 Rebound
07:00 Fantastic Four
08:45 Total Recall
10:45 Sniper 2
12:30 Rebound

STAR PLUS

09:00 Bolly V - Star Plus
09:05 V Trailers - Star Plus

09:30 Saans
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
10:30 Aladdin
11:00 Kim Possible
11:30 Sonpari
12:00 Karishma Ka Karishma
12:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
12:30 V Trailers - Star Plus
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
01:30 Shaka Laka Boom Boom
01:55 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
02:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
02:30 Speed 2 Cruise Control (Hindi)
05:00 V Trailers - Star Plus
06:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
05:30 Krishna Kathaiyen
06:30 Star Voice Of India
07:25 Bolly V - Star Plus
07:30 Kasturi
08:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni..

08:30 Lucky
09:30 Prithviraj Chauhan
10:00 Baa Bahoo Aur Baby
10:30 Star Voice Of India
11:30 Thodi Si Zameen Thoda Sa Aasma
12:30 Bolly V - Star Plus

12:30 The Apprentice
09:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
10:30 The Simpsons
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 Wills India Fashion Week
02:30 Arrested Development
03:00 8 Simple Rules
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Frasier

STAR WORLD

09:30 The Apprentice
10:30 The Bold And The Beautiful
12:30 The Simpsons
01:00 Travel Asia
01:30 Wills India Fashion Week
02:30 Arrested Development
03:00 8 Simple Rules
03:30 Malcolm In The Middle
04:00 My Name Is Earl
04:30 Frasier

05:00 Psych
06:00 30 Rock
06:30 The O.C.
07:30 Tna Xplosion
08:30 Desperate Housewives
09:30 Grey's Anatomy
10:30 Heroes
11:30 Psych
12:30 Prison Break

DISCOVERY CHANNEL

08:30 Wild Discovery
09:30 Discovery Spotlight
11:30 Extreme Machines
12:30 Engineering the World's Rally
01:30 Wildest Week
02:30 Beauty of Snakes
04:30 Wild Discovery
05:30 Really Big Things with Matt Rogers
06:30 Planet Earth
07:30 Wildest Week
08:30 Discover India
09:30 Everest: Beyond the Limit

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

09:30 Eternal Arms Race
10:30 Robo Human
11:30 Deadly Design
12:30 China
01:30 AT 10
02:30 Pay, Fergus, Blossom
03:00 Wrinkled Lipped Bats
03:30 Telepathy
04:30 Girl Stars
05:00 Ana, Bill, Banjo
05:30 Big Bang
06:00 Sable Island
06:30 Aircraft Explosion

07:30 Chimps Unchained
08:30 Delhi in Flames
09:30 Air Hijack
10:30 Science Safari
11:30 Lockdown
12:30 Artic Kingdom

ESPN

10:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo
11:00 Hitz (Cricket)
11:30 U.S. Open Golf C'ship '02 Offici
02:30 Hitz (Cricket)
02:50 Sportscenter Weekend (Sport News
02:55 Afro-Asia Cup 2007 (Cricket)
06:30 Sportscenter Week In Review (Spo
07:00 Afro-Asia Cup 2007 (Cricket)
11:00 2007 Formula One Qualifying (Aut
12:00 U.S. Open Golf C'ship '05 Offici

STAR SPORTS

09:30 Roland Garros Highlights
10:30 Tna Badshah-Sting
12:30 The Ubs Golf Club
01:00 2007 Fia World Touring Cars Cham
03:00 Fita Archery World Cup Events 20
03:30 Fei Equestrian World (Equestrian)
04:00 Road To Beijing
04:30 2007 Motogg World Championship H
05:30 Spirit Of Golf Series Iii
06:00 Roland Garros Highlights
07:00 Roland Garros
10:30 Indian Legends