

Documentary screening

# “Badabon-er Katha”: A tale of the Sundarbans

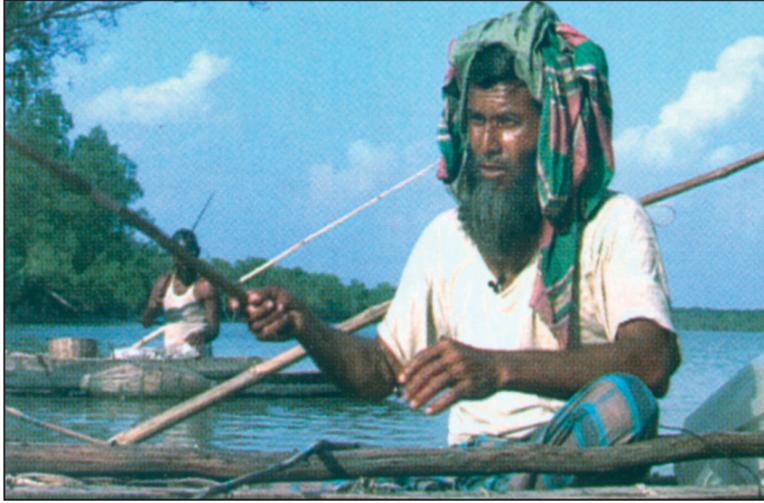
ERSHAD KAMOL

THE Sundarbans, the largest mangrove forest in the world, lies on the Southwestern coastal areas of Bangladesh, forming a seaward fringe of the delta. The Sundarbans is intersected by a complex network of waterways, mudflats and small islands covered with mangrove forests, and presents an excellent example of ongoing ecological processes. The area is known for its wide range of fauna. There are about 334 species of trees and plants and 450 species of animals in

this forest -- a repository of diversity. Of these, there are 47 species of mammals, 270 species of birds, 45 species of reptiles and 200 species of fish.

A documentary film on the Sundarbans, titled *Badabon-er Katha*, was premiered on August 18 at National Museum Auditorium. Under the supervision of Manzarehassin Murad, Moynul Huda has directed the documentary. It is a joint venture by Steps Towards Development and Rupantar.

The documentary presents the scenic beauty of the Sundarbans in



Stills from the documentary

different seasons, as well as the dependency of humans to the forest for making their living.

*Badabon-er Katha* begins with images of spectacular beauty of the majestic forest. The documentary features the diverse lifestyles of people living in the Sundarbans, including fishermen, honey collectors and others. *Badabon-er Katha* also highlights some natural and man-made changes that are fast becoming

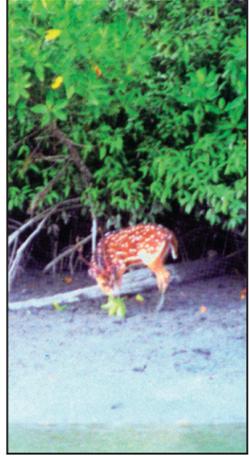
threats to the existence of the Sundarbans.

Prior to the screening of the film a discussion was held. Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, Dr. Ainun Nishat (country representative of The World Conservation Union Bangladesh), Ranjan Karmokar (executive director of Steps Towards Development), Swapan Guha (CEO of Rupantar), filmmaker Manzarehassin Murad and director of *Badabon-er Katha*, Moynul Huda

spoke at the event.

Referring to the Sundarbans as the “only sweet-water mangrove forest in the world”, Dr. Ainun Nishat said, “Three points of the forest are listed as a UNESCO World Heritage site. However, this rare heritage site is under threat.”

Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed said, “This documentary will be a record of the Sundarbans, if ever the largest mangrove forest in the world is lost.”



# Fakir Shohedul Islam: Working towards a vibrant classical music scene

KARIM WAHEED

“Classical music may not have a wide audience, as it is an acquired taste. For artists however, a sound base in classical music is a must. It prepares one’s vocals for virtually all genres,” says Fakir Shohedul Islam.

Shohedul is currently teaching at BAFA’s (Wizeghat) newly formed “Pure Classical Music” department. The artist has had extensive training and education in classical music.

Shohedul completed his I-Muse degree from Dhaka Government Music College in 1991. He did his B-Muse (’93) from the same institution. In ’96 he completed his Honours in Classical Music from Rabindra Bharati University in Kolkata. In ’98 the artiste did his M-Muse (specialising in *Khayal*) from Rabindra Bharati. Shohedul also received a scholarship from Indian Council for Cultural relations. Earlier this year, he completed his PhD in “Study of Classical Music -- Influence of Vishnupur and other prevailing Styles of Undivided Bengal” from Rabindra Bharati.

Speaking on his PhD subject, Shohedul says, “The *Vishnupur Gharana* of classical music



Fakir Shohedul Islam performs at a programme

originated in Vishnupur in the Bankura district of Bengal (now West Bengal) about 300 years ago. Vishnupur was essentially a centre for *dhrupad* culture. The founding and expansion of this *gharana* was an event of great significance in the development of music in Bengal.”

Shohedul trained under Ustad Phul Muhammad and Nilufar

Yasmin in Dhaka. In India he trained under Sangeet Acharya Amiyu Ranjan Bandopadhyay, an exponent of the *Vishnupur Gharana*.

Though for the most part Shohedul has studied classical music, he began his foray into the world of music with Nazrul Sangeet. There are several exponents of classical music in different regions

of the country, including Amaresh Chowdhury and Ram Kanai Das in Sylhet and Mihir Lal in Chittagong. Experiences of these *ustads* should be utilised for teaching local students.”

Son of freedom fighter and social activist Fakir Abdul Jobbar of Rajbari, Shohedul says while growing up he received encouragement and inspiration from his parents and aunt.

The artiste has conducted 15-day training classes on classical and Bangla songs, arranged by Shilpakala Academy, in Rangamati and Sirajganj. Shohedul has also judged divisional rounds in Dhaka and Chittagong of *Bengal Bikash*, the talent hunt by Bengal Foundation.

Shohedul aspires to establish himself as an accomplished artiste and groom talented newcomers. He aims to set up an institution like ITC Sangeet Research Academy in Dhaka, where students will receive extensive training from *gurus*.

# “Gothhito Hoi Shunney Milai”: Documentary on Shimul Yousuf

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Young filmmaker Fauzia Khan’s documentary on the virtuoso theatre actor Shimul Yousuf, *Gothhito Hoi Shunney Milai (I do form to be deformed)* was screened at Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Public Library on August 18. The event was held on the occasion of launching the DVD of the documentary.

The documentary focuses on Shimul’s career as an actor, singer, music director, dancer, choreographer and costume designer as well as her life off stage.

The DVD launch was inaugurated by acclaimed litterateur Hasan Azizul Haque. Fauzia Khan and Shimul Yousuf were also present at the programme. Two screenings of the documentary were held at the event -- at 5:30pm and 7:30pm. Proceeds from ticket sales were donated to the flood victims.

In her speech, the filmmaker recalled how her point of view about theatre changed drastically after watching Shimul Yousuf perform in a play. Fauzia was so overwhelmed by the experience that she decided to record the actor’s life on and off stage. She started working on the



A scene from the documentary

documentary in 2001. Fauzia also mentioned that generating funds for a documentary, which does not fulfil the criterion of the so called “highlighting developmental activities”, is a challenge and that the government should come forward in this regard.

Shimul Yousuf politely expressed her gratitude, saying she is “not that great an artiste that one has to make a documentary on her”. She also mentioned the roles of Dhaka Theatre, acclaimed

playwright Selim Al Din and her husband director Nasiruddin Yousuf in shaping her career. “Selim bhai wrote the plays and Nasiruddin Yousuf gave me the opportunity to play some memorable roles,” she said.

Laser vision is marketing the 48-minute long documentary produced by Ray vision. The documentary has English subtitles.

# “The Last Lear” to be screened at Toronto film fest

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is celebration time for internationally acclaimed Indian director Rituparno Ghosh and Bollywood superstar Amitabh Bachchan. The reason for that is Ghosh’s film in English, *The Last Lear*, featuring Bachchan in title role will be screened at the Toronto International Film Festival next month.

The film, based on late actor Utpal Dutt’s Bengali play *Aajker Shahjahan*, will have its world premier at Toronto on September 9 and Ghosh, Bachchan along with other members of the cast including Preity Zinta, Arjun Rampal and Shefali Shah will be in the Canadian city on the occasion.

It will be a special moment for Bachchan who for the first time has acted in a movie directed by someone outside the Bollywood rigmarole and



Rituparno Ghosh

that too in English.

In the movie, Bachchan plays the role of a failed and ageing Shakespearean actor. Arjun Rampal, who essays the role of a filmmaker from Kolkata, had stayed in the capital of West Bengal for a few days just to get a feel of its vibrancy, says Ghosh.

While Ghosh has worked with

Bollywood stars in his earlier films like Ajay Devgan and Aishwarya Rai in his *Raincoat*, working with Bachchan was a totally different experience for him.

“It was absolutely delightful to work with Amit-da. I had heard about his thorough professionalism but that is only a part of the truth. He brings in so much sincerity and genuineness to his acting that it’s truly an endearing experience,” gushes Ghosh.

The director is also effusive about the story. “Utpal Dutt’s play,” he claims, “combines the theatre and cinema beautifully”.

The director does not agree that the audience for *The Last Lear* could be restricted because of it being in English. “Actually, we have used the language the way we Indians speak. So, the film has the potential to go to a larger audience,” he insists.

## 3x3

# ON AIR

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-1**  
News (Bangla) at 7:15 am, 9:00am, 2:30pm, 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, 10:30pm, 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

**ntv**  
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am

**ETV**  
News (Bangla): 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm

**BTV**

08:45 World Roundup  
11:15 Documentary Programme  
12:00 Maa O Shishur Kotha  
12:30 Onu Porumanu  
01:30 Shukhi Ponbar  
02:15 Alor Pather Jatri  
03:05 Cartoon  
03:30 Dolon Chanpa  
04:00 Ogrodut  
04:30 Banshuri  
05:05 Debate  
06:10 Matri Bhasha  
07:00 Mati O Manush  
07:20 Shurer Shurobhi  
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh  
08:35 Chhayachondo  
09:30 Krishi Diba Nishi  
10:30 Bulbul

**ATN Bangla**

10:30 AKTEI Onnyodrishti  
11:05 Ek Jonomey  
11:35 Musical Programme  
12:10 Motamot  
01:25 Cocola Cholochitrer Golpo  
02:30 Doll's House  
03:10 O Amar Chokhhu Nai  
03:45 Chotoder Prithibi  
04:20 Matri Shubatash  
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khobar  
05:10 Shushtho Thakun  
05:45 Business Week  
06:20 Aseypasher Manush  
08:00 Drama Serial: Kath Koylar Chhobi  
08:45 Mihir Alir Prottyabarton  
11:30 Talking Point  
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

**CHANNEL-i**

09:30 Shongbad Potrey Bangladesh  
09:45 Public Reaction  
09:50 Grameenphone Tritiyo matra  
11:05 Educational Programme  
12:30 Citycell Tarokakothon  
01:05 Tax Helpline  
01:15 Ebong Cinemar Gaan  
01:30 Shangbad Potrey Bangladesh  
02:40 Priobash  
03:05 Banijyo O Orthonti  
03:30 D Rockstar 2  
04:05 Sa Re Ga Ma  
04:30 FCT Business Talk  
05:30 Mukti Judhho Protidin  
06:00 Star gate S G One  
06:20 Ontoraler Kotha  
06:40 Business Show  
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shanglap  
11:30 Ekayno Barti  
12:00 Grameenphone Aiker Shangbadpotro

**ETV**

08:00 Ekusher Shokal  
01:30 Drishti  
03:30 Shoyong  
03:30 Chirontoni  
04:00 Pathey Pantorey  
04:30 Shukhi Manush Project  
05:30 Gaanoala  
06:30 Desh Jurey Chalchitro  
08:30 Drama Serial: Hitlu  
09:30 Ekusher Shomoy

## PICK OF THE DAY

**Kath Koylar Chhobi**  
On ATN Bangla at 8:00pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Tauquir Ahmed, Raisul Islam Asad

**Alexander**  
On Star Movies at 8:45pm  
Genre: Action  
Cast: Colin Farrell, Angelina Jolie

<p>10:30 Drama Serial: Bodhon 11:45 Reporter's File 12:00 Ekusher Raat</p>	<p>02:30 Musical Programme 03:45 Documentary Programme 04:20 Musical Programme 05:10 Sports Carnival 05:30 Gaan Ar Gaan 06:00 Protidin 06:35 Lost 08:00 Drama Serial: Dohon Jugol Bondi 09:20 Drama Serial: Raat Jaga Pakhi 11:00 Heart Beat 11:30 News Watch</p>	<p>08:35 Shubho Shokal 09:05 Agamir Kontho 10:10 Article Thirty-Nine 11:10 Sports Vision 11:40 Cine Beat 01:00 Drama Serial: Shesh Odhay 02:40 Amar Ami 03:10 X Crime 04:15 Drama Serial: Swapno Chura 05:00 Drama Serial: Tarik Ali Hadari 05:40 Citycell Diner Sheshey 06:35 Amader Raina Ghar 08:15 Desher Pashey 08:55 Drama: Dokhiner Manush 11:30 Shamol Bangla</p>	<p>12:00 Shongbad Protidin <b>DISCOVERY CHANNEL</b> 09:30 Discovery Biggest Shows 11:30 How Do They Do It? Million 2 One 12:00 Yummy Mumm 01:30 Raw Nature Discovery Showcase 02:30 Popular Mechanics for Kids 04:00 Earth Science for Children 04:30 Wild Discovery 05:30 Wild Safari 06:30 Extreme Machines 07:30 Wild Discovery 08:30 Colours of India</p>
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09:30 Future Weapons  
10:30 Man Made Marvels  
11:30 Life On The Edge

**STAR MOVIES**

08:00 Airheads  
09:35 Desperado  
11:20 Sound Of Music, The  
02:15 Full Monty, The  
03:45 A Lot Like Love  
05:30 Hot Shots!  
07:00 Hard Target  
08:45 Alexander  
11:45 Vip Access  
12:15 Die Another Day  
02:30 Boogeyman

**STAR PLUS**

09:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
10:00 V Trailers - Star Plus  
10:30 Ducktales  
11:00 Goof Troop  
11:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
11:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
12:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni  
12:30 Kasturi  
12:55 Bolly V - Star Plus  
01:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay  
01:30 Kunkum - Pyara Sa Bandhan  
02:00 Bhabhi  
02:30 Karam Apnaa Apnaa Saarthi  
03:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
04:00 Kayamath  
04:30 Aek Chhabhi Hai Padoss Mein  
05:30 V Trailers - Star Plus  
06:00 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni  
06:30 Kasturi  
07:00 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Sangam  
08:00 Antakshari - The Gr8 Kids Spl  
09:00 Kasautii Zindagi Kay

09:30 Meri Awaz Ko Mil Gayi Roshni  
10:00 Kasturi  
10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi  
11:00 Kayamath  
12:00 Karam Apnaa Apnaa Bolly V - Star Plus

**STAR WORLD**

08:30 My Wife And Kids  
09:00 The Simpsons  
09:30 Day Break  
10:30 The Jane Show  
11:00 Criss Angel Mindfreak  
11:30 The Simpsons  
12:00 Malcolm In The Middle  
12:30 Koffee With Karan Law & Order: S.V.U.  
02:30 The Ellen Degeneres Show  
03:30 The Bold And The Beautiful  
04:00 General Hospital  
05:00 Ultimate Force  
06:00 Scrubs  
06:30 The Simpsons  
07:00 My Wife And Kids  
07:30 Friends  
08:00 Seinfeld  
08:30 That '70s Show  
09:00 Everybody Loves Raymond  
09:30 According To Jim  
10:00 Yes Dear  
10:30 Psych  
11:30 Seinfeld  
12:00 Friends  
12:30 Scrubs

**NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC**

08:30 Double Trouble Gators  
09:30 Spacemen  
10:30 Sauna Belt  
11:15 Global Pendant  
11:30 Jack The Ripper

**FM radio**

**Radio Foorti**

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)  
11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)  
03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Sakib)  
07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)  
11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)

12:30 Loch Ness  
01:30 Mega Machines  
02:30 Piri-piri, Pugsly, Josh  
03:00 Crabs  
03:30 Spacemen  
04:30 I Didn't Know That  
05:00 A Killer Cure  
05:30 Backyard Science  
06:00 Beasts Of Botswana  
06:30 Spacemen  
07:30 Flooded Desert  
08:30 Air Crash Investigations  
09:30 Space Shuttle Explosion  
10:30 Escape Tech  
11:30 Falling From The Sky  
12:30 Bug Brother

**HISTORY**

09:30 Al Qaeda  
10:30 Joseph Stalin  
11:30 Wonder Brand  
12:00 Brahmagan  
12:30 Benjamin Franklin  
02:30 Biography of Millennium  
04:30 Secrets of World War I  
05:30 Tactical to Practical  
06:30 After Moscow  
07:30 Abominable Snowman  
08:30 MIG Alley  
09:30 Honour  
10:30 Lost Evidence