

Remembering Yeasmin

Kormojibi Nari observes National Day of Resistance of Violence Against Women

FAYZA HAQ

Observing Yeasmin Day as the National Day of Resistance of Violence Against Women, Kormojibi Nari held a programme on August 26 at Gallery Chitrak in Dhaka.

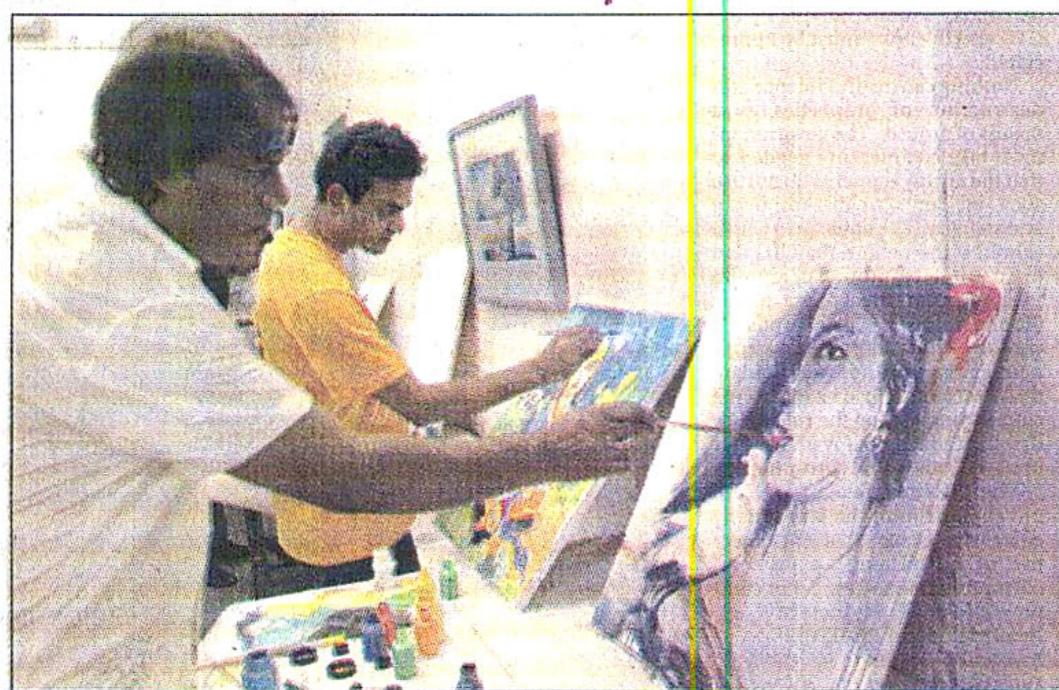
Speaking on the occasion Ifthikhar Ahmed Chowdhury, advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said that the murder of Yeasmin was a tragedy for the whole nation, which should never be repeated again.

Sultana Kamal, human rights activist, said that one still notices that men feel superior even though women go out to work and earn wages apart from running the home. She too condemned Yeasmin's torture by the police.

Renowned artist Shahabuddin said that women have been the muses to artists, writers and poets throughout the ages. He said that when he had read the news on Yeasmin, sitting in Paris, he felt like his own kinfolk were being killed. He said that in his own paintings women are depicted as helpless as that was his impression of Bengali women in the '71 War of Liberation. He believes that there can be no progress in the country unless women move forward alongside men.

Muniruzzaman, the director of Chitrak, said that numerous artists like Fareha Zeba, Ahmed Nazir, Atiya Islam, Alokesh Ghosh and Jamal Ahmed were painting on canvas with acrylic to mark the day, keeping Yeasmin in mind.

Fareha Zeba had a blanched face



Artists Jamal Ahmed and Safeen seen at work

of the victim Yeasmin in the centre of her canvas. All around are the cruel hands of the evil men who had abused her. A big cross of scotch tape covers her face as she could not protest in any way. Her scared face, immediately before the incident that night and the twisted visage after the tragedy are included in the composition.

Ahmed Nazir's work features a whole collection of eyes full of disgust and surprise. The artist says that anger and regret are reflected most in the eyes. The expression in

the eyes, done in black and red, reflect the feelings of the average people of Bangladesh who remember the incident. This brings in the reaction of both men and women.

Atiya Islam brings in skulls, dripping blood, cut necks etc that has Yeasmin as a symbol of the injustices done in our country from time to time. The painting includes a dead foetus, which has been added to enhance the impact of the tragedy. A cockroach has been put there too, to heighten the sense of disgust.

The programme which began with Jharna Sharmin's recitation of *Droupadir Jonno* was rounded off with Baul songs.

Md. Zahir represents Yeasmin's innocence through a white flower on the canvas, which is surrounded by grey and black that stand for impending evil. Jamal Ahmed has a similar pristine image of a girl with a bird in her hand that symbolises Yeasmin's simplicity.

Similarly, other artists, present at the event, delineated the theme with impact.

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Echoing Nazrul throughout the nation

MOHAMMAD SHAFIQUL ISLAM

Nazrul, an icon in Bangla literature, a torchbearer during the anti-Raj movement, poet of the world, should be reminisced with due honour, solemnity and interest by Bengalis everywhere.

Unfortunately however, a poet of his stature has not been properly evaluated yet. Despite his key involvement in the nation building, Nazrul remains a sidelined icon.

Nationalists over the decades have drawn inspiration from Nazrul's essays, songs and poetry, leftists have tried to portray the poet as one of their comrades, and secularists have quoted Nazrul in support of their position. Group of Muslims have fervently labelled Nazrul as a poet of Islamic renaissance, while there are others who, with equal vehemence, condemned and disowned him as a Muslim.

While every nation strives to promote their cultural excellence beyond its boundaries, we, Bengalis, seem to be quite content with lip service most of the time. Our cultural efforts, few and far between, remain sluggish. Most of us discuss or write essays on Nazrul, particularly around his birth and death anniversaries but a few days after those occasions, his works are left collecting dust.

Nazrul should be analysed, explored and remembered more often; as a nation we could demonstrate our sincerity and gratitude more. His messages of secularism, patriotism and universal harmony



should reach every nook and corner of the country.

Our youth are strongly attached to the so-called ultra modern practices that are in reality little more than blind imitation of the Western culture. It becomes more regrettable when some

Bangladeshis prefer Hindi songs to Bangla ones.

More so than ever, Nazrul's works should be available in all levels of education in Bangladesh. Nazrul should be included in the academic precinct, from primary

away from one's own heritage and literature is self-destructive.

Nazrul led a diverse life. He saw and lived with people from all walks of life -- affluent and deprived, weak and powerful, rustic and civilian. His experiences shaped his literature. He had a strong sense of equality of mankind, which enabled him to right verses like *Gahi shammer gaan*.

Nazrul was also very vocal about his feminist values. As a progressive personality of the time his stance was very liberal in the gender issue. He professed faith in the equality of women -- a view his contemporaries considered revolutionary. In his poem *Naree* (Women), Nazrul refers to what he sees as long-standing oppression of women, proclaiming their equality:

*Whatever great or benevolent achievements
That exist in the world
Half of that was by woman
And other half by man*

It is time to echo Nazrul's messages and ideals. Today the nation needs to unite, guided by in the light of Nazrul's immortal words: "Let people of all countries and all times come together. Let them hear the melody of harmony. Should a single person get hurt, all hearts should feel the pain. If one is insulted, let all heads bow down in shame... Time for the universal man to secure his place in the world..."

The writer is a Lecturer, Department of English, Metropolitan University, Sylhet

"Chandra Karigar": New drama serial by Humayun Ahmed on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

A new drama serial titled *Chandra Karigar*, written and directed by popular litterateur and filmmaker Humayun Ahmed, will be aired from tonight (at 9:35pm) on channel i. The serial will be aired every Monday and Tuesday from now on.

The storyline revolves around Shubho, the only son of a retired and mentally imbalanced

father. Quite often Shubho causes anxiety in the family. He writes poetry, reads books on mathematics, researches on several complex subjects. Lately he has been frequenting a village; an excuse to take a break from the chaos that is his life in the city. The serial follows Shubho getting involved in village politics.

Asaduzzaman Nur, Wahida Mallik Jolly, Meher Afroz Shaon, Agun, Challenger and Badhon play lead roles in the serial.



A scene from *Chandra Karigar*

Magazine programme "ntv Shamoyiki" starts tonight

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Satellite TV channel ntv will start airing a new magazine programme on art, literature, culture and politics titled *ntv Shamoyiki* from tonight (at 9pm).

Each episode of the programme will include different segments like, *Prochchhatpat*, resembling the cover page of a magazine; *Shamayikir chokey*, a discussion on the news published in different dailies; *Natmancha* and *Chalachchitra*, segments based on our theatre and film industry; *Kanthaswar*, young talent highlights and many more.

Produced by Alfred Khokon, the show will be hosted by Dr. Azfar Hossain.

Announcement

As part of enrolment of new talents in acting and music, Padatik Natty Sangsads Bangladesh will begin a selection process soon, says a press release. Interested individuals, who have completed their S.S.C. or O Levels, are eligible to become members of the theatre group. Selected applicants will however have to go through theatre workshop conducted by eminent theatre personalities. The last date for submitting application is September 6.

Sushmita Sen on her role in the remake of "Sholay"

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood actress and former Miss Universe Sushmita Sen may have essayed a variety of roles in the 30 films in her career so far but says she has found shades of herself in a new character in Ram Gopal Verma's remake of the Hindi blockbuster *Sholay*.

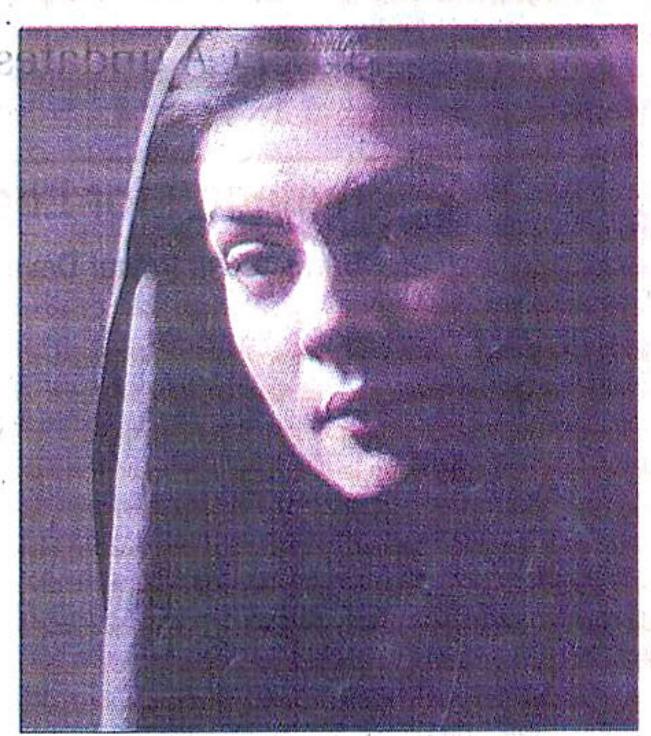
Sen, a model-turned-actress, plays the role of Durga Devi in Verma's film, which was played under the name of Radha by actress Jaya Bachchan in the original, released in 1975.

Durga Devi in Verma's movie is a doctor and is not as stoic and silent as Radha in the original," says Sen.

"A lot of Durga Devi is like me. I believe in inner strength and being positive and I don't regress to the past," Sen told *Indian Express* newspaper in an interview recently.

Verma's remake of the original super-hit has super star Amitabh Bachchan playing the role of Babban, a modern-day version of Gabbar Singh of *Sholay*, made a house-hold name by Amjad Khan.

In the original, however, Amitabh Bachchan had essayed the role of Jai, one of the two thieves hired by a former police officer to avenge the killing of Radha's husband by Gabbar. Sen had played the role of a rockstar and a sex worker in her previous two movies *Zindagi Rocks* and *Chingari*, the latter directed by Kalpana Lajmi. Sen says she enjoys playing varied roles in films.



Sushmita Sen in the remake of *Sholay*

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

BTV
08:45 Pakhhik Barta
11:15 Documentary

08:35 Special Programme
09:00 CHANNEL-i

11:40 Educational Programme
12:05 *Maa O Shishir Kotha*

09:45 Public Reaction

01:00 Heritage

09:50 Special Programme

01:30 *Mati O Manush*

11:30 *Amar Chhobi*

02:15 *Drupadi*

12:30 *Citycell Tarokakathan*

02:40 Selected Programme

01:05 *Tax Helpline*

03:05 *Cartoon*

01:15 *Ebong Cinemar*

03:30 *Shukhi Ponbar*

01:30 *Gaan*

04:00 *Koishor*

01:30 *Shongbadporey*

05:05 *Moner Kotha*

01:45 *Public Reaction*

05:30 *Anushilan*

02:40 *Mega Serial Pro*

06:10 *Quiz Quiz*

03:00 *Bash*

06:30 *Desh O Bigray*

03:05 *i-Sports*

07:20 *Lok Lakoy*

04:05 *Sa Re Ga Ma*

08:30 *Protikhon*

04:30 *Musical Programme*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Rahu*

05:30 *Mukti Juddho Protidin*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Shongbadporey*

05:30 *Shongbadporey*

09:00 *Drama Serial:*