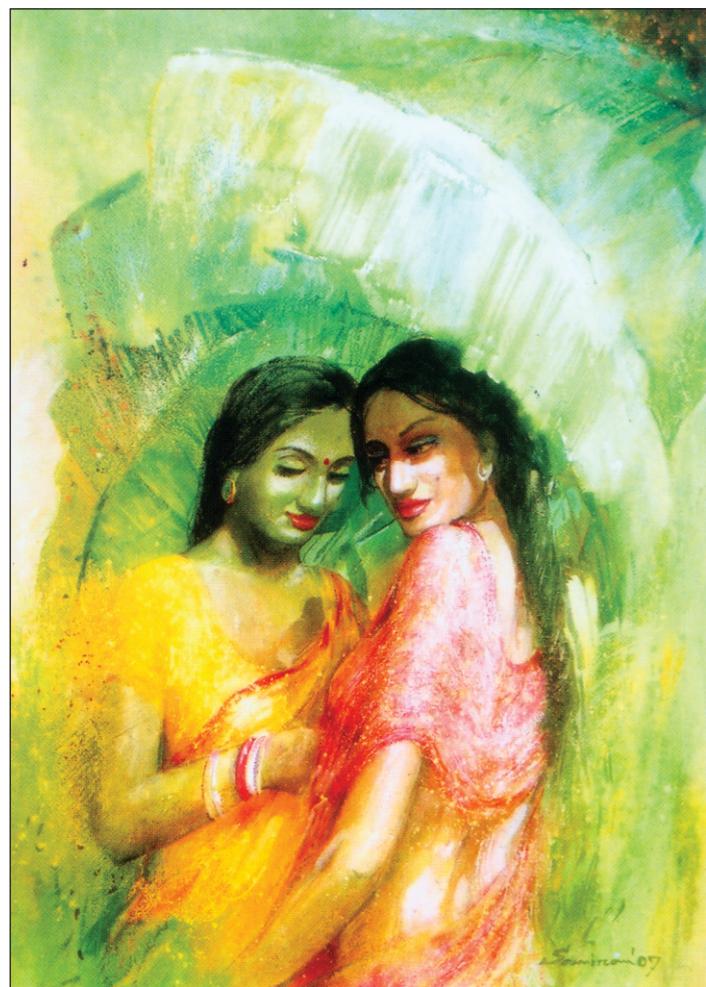


# Of beauties and beasts

Samiran's 12th solo



Artworks by Samiran Chowdhury

## FAYZA HAQ

If one goes in for realism, Samiran Chowdhury's recent exhibition at Saju's Art Gallery was a veritable feast of colours and forms. His chalk drawings of bulls and battle scenes were creations full of vigour and action. His scenes from nature were also moving.



Samiran painted and drew as a child, encouraged by his father, even though it was not a subject at school. He joined the Institute of Fine Arts DU in 1980, and there got the guidance of teachers like Mahabubul Amin, Rafiqun Nabi, Abdus Shakoor and Abdul Baset. Aside from his class work he did other paintings which he sold to the

galleries. Samiran says he loves doing portraits from his imagination. "I can't possibly expect to get models with perfect features and figures," he comments. Most of his works were in mixed media, using water-colour, acrylic and oil pastel, his favourite being water-colour. Asked about the problems he faces as an artist, Samiran says that while

people are ready to praise, he does not get sufficient monetary reward. As for session jams as a student, he says that although it meant that it took him more time to get his degree, yet he got a longer period of training, for which he is grateful.

Samiran's greatest interest are women's figures with exquisite features and body proportions. In

one of his paintings he showed a woman coming out of a bath, with long dripping hair and a scanty diaphanous sari. Another was a tribal Pakistani woman with delicate features, heavy jewellery and embroidered clothes. This was inspired by a recent trip to Pakistan, where he had his exhibition. A couple of female friends were seen sharing secrets under banana trees, and this too glorified women's beauty.

Based on the Liberation War, he made many drawings in charcoal with flags, rifles and soldiers, some including passing dogs, joining the fray, to lend interest. Pakistani soldiers were shown as captured. Fighting bulls had been added to the exhibition to present his forte in drawing. These sketches have in mind Zainul Abedin's drawings of cows. Doves too had been included in his repertoire and this was done in mixed media. Samiran says he has always been intrigued by the figures of bulls, dogs and goats.

A portrait of Bangabandhu, Sheikh Mujib Rahman, done in black and white, with red and green of the national flag in the background, was a rich addition to the collection. The shaking of the forefinger and the tossing of the front locks -- while giving a fiery speech had been carefully captured.

Fishermen with only "lungi" and "gamchha" were shown drawing their nets, early morning, before the sun was out. Behind them were boats, houses and hills.

Yellow flowers, seen in a garden, with a lot of texture work in white were there to be seen too.

Samiran's favourite artists are Michaelangelo, Da Vinci, Botticelli and Raphael. Among the modern painters, he admires Van Gogh and Picasso most of all.

# A natural born singer

## Tête-à-tête with Alam Ara Minu

### NADIA SARWAT

Radio, TV, films, music albums -- Alam Ara Minu's songs are everywhere. Possessing versatility and melody, the enlisted artiste in both radio and TV, has so far released 30 albums, of which 10 are solo and playbacked for over 100 films.

In a recent interview with *The Daily Star* (TDS), the singer shares certain aspects of her career and more. Excerpts from the conversation:

**TDS:** Your introduction to music...

**Minu:** Music fascinated me since I was a child, although there was no musician in my family to guide me. My father was a music enthusiast and taught me how to play the harmonium. Soon I was participating at school functions and competitions, without any formal training. I managed to win many of these competitions. Then I auditioned at radio and television and never had to look back.

**TDS:** The turning point in your career...

**Minu:** I believe it was my performance in the TV show *Geeti Bichitra* in 1989. I was the first singer in the first episode of the programme. The song was *Tara bhabra ratey*, composed by Ayub Bachchu. The song was also featured in my debut album (released in the same year) and became quite popular. Ayub Bachchu himself performed the song in an album afterwards.

**TDS:** Which genre of music do you prefer?

**Minu:** Well, I always wanted to be a versatile singer. Music comes naturally to me and I enjoy singing all kinds of songs.

**TDS:** Interesting incidents...

**Minu:** One particular incident comes to mind: I was invited to perform at a stage show in Qatar, along with Rizia Parveen and



**Take a song as a song, and as a professional I don't differentiate among music directors**

Palash. Well, I contracted cold and could hardly speak. I wanted to back out but the organisers insisted that I perform. Having no other option since I had already taken an advance, I decided to lip sync, which I never do at live shows. However, I was afraid that if the audience called for an encore I would be exposed! Fortunately the musicians got into the act, and the show ended well.

Rizia and Palash were very amused and said, "Minu, we knew you sing well, but we didn't know you can act too!"

Alam Ara Minu has recently finished recording her latest solo album *Dokhiner Janala* which is set to be released on the occasion of Eid-ul-Fitr.

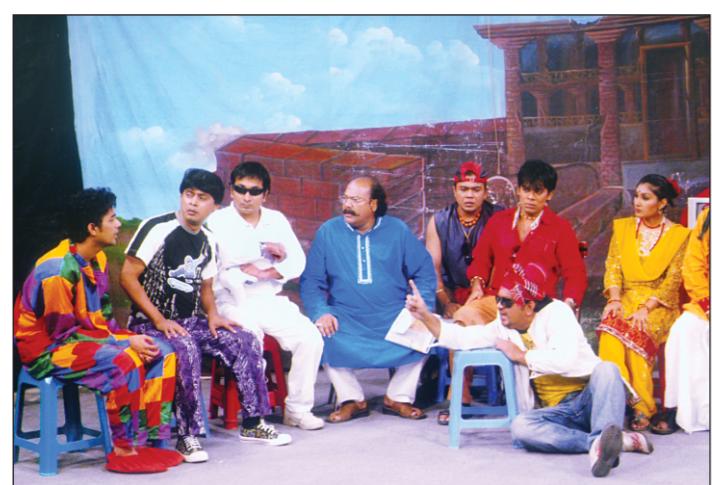
## TV Watch

### Drama serial "Astey Astey" on Channel i

#### Cultural correspondent

Drama serial *Astey Astey* is an innovative production. The serial is aired live on Channel i every Thursday and Saturday at 11:30pm.

Through the serial, Channel i intends to change the concept of TV



A scene from the serial

plays among the audience. Hitting issues including everyday news, this serial is already making a buzz.

Shahidul Alam Sachchu, one of the two directors of the serial, said, "We are trying to incorporate the theatrical style of acting in a TV play. Every episode features

issues that often become headlines in newspapers, and is aired live. If the audience likes it and the artistes and crew remain supportive, we have a plan to convert the serial into a daily show."

Because it is a live performance, it does include all the gaffes the artistes and the director make. Designed by a former movie poster designer, the set of the series includes only a painted curtain in the background.

The cast includes Humayun Faridee, Fazlur Rahman Babu, Saberi Alam, Shireen Bakul, Nusrat Yasmin Tisa, Shahed, Mir Sabbir, Bonya Mirza, Srabonti, Tinni, Hillol, Sazu Khadem, Shahidul Alam Sachchu and others.

Shyam Bhaduri, Rubel Shankar, Azad Abul Kalam, Pantha Shahriar and Sumanta Aslam are in the panel of the scriptwriters. Amirul Islam is the other director of the serial.

The Graduation Ceremony of Playpen O'Level 5th batch was held recently at Emmanuel's Banquet Hall, says a press release. The event featured dance sequences and songs performed by the senior section students. The Graduation Certificates were awarded by Sabera P Harun, principal and Honorary roll certificates were given by Shahriar Quader, vice principal of the school. The programme was attended by students, parents, coordinators and teachers



### Shekhar Kapur back with "The Golden Age"

After many abortive attempts to make a film in the last six years, filmmaker Shekhar Kapur has returned with a pulsating, gorgeous looking and solidly acted film that has propelled him into the Hollywood A-list again. There was a strong Oscar buzz for the \$80 million historical drama *Elizabeth: The Golden Age*, which premiered at the 32nd Toronto International Film Festival held recently.

The humiliating failure of his previous film *Fair Feathers*, which cost over \$60 million and grossed less than \$45 million worldwide is forgotten, now that *The Golden Age* could become one of the bigger successes of the fall season.

The film also marks A.R. Rahman's debut in a Hollywood film.

*The Golden Age* is being distributed by Universal, and will open worldwide in mid October. It has raised high hopes of an Oscar nomination for Cate Blanchett, who reprises her Oscar nominated role in Kapur's *Elizabeth* released in 1998. Just as

*The Golden Age* premiere was on the way, Blanchett received another career boost. She won the award for best actress at the Venice film festival for her role in Todd Haynes's Bob Dylan biopic *I'm Not There*.

Kapur talked at length about how *The Golden Age*, which chronicles the unfulfilling romantic life of the 16th century British monarch, is still relevant

to contemporary times. He also said the film spends quite some time showing the Catholic Spanish kingdom -- which seeks to dominate the continent -- is driven by religious bigotry. The film deals with the efforts of Spanish king Philip II to overthrow Elizabeth and replace the Protestant England by Catholicism.

"It was one of the greatest eras in human history," Kapur said. "It produced playwrights such as William Shakespeare; Francis Drake became the first Englishman to circumnavigate the globe, and Francis Bacon set up new scientific methods of enquiry. But there was always a threat of war and bloodshed; religious fundamentalism was causing havoc across Europe."

"Fundamentalism and tolerance are issues that face us so clearly now, especially in a post-9/11 world," he said, adding that he was very keen that the script showed the consequences of religious bigotry.

Kapur repeated the story from his previous interviews saying that getting Cate Blanchett agree to play Queen was his biggest challenge. She has been rejecting his cajoling and pressure for over six years, he said.

Blanchett has said that for many years, she felt she could not bring anything new to playing Elizabeth.

She became convinced, she said, after reading the script that there were 'endless possibilities with Elizabeth because she's endlessly fascinating.'

Source: Internet



## ON AIR

### PICK OF THE DAY



### ICC World Twenty 20

On ESPN at 5:45pm

Bangladesh Vs Australia

Live from Cape Town

### STAR MOVIES

08:20 Lord Of War

08:30 The Living Daylights

09:00 Mohanogor

09:30 Shondhi Khoney

10:00 Vokab

10:30 Drama Serial:

11:00 Bachelor Dompoti

11:30 Dodi O Jibon

12:00 Citycell Diner

12:30 Sheshey

01:00 Islamic Programme

01:30 Sportsvision

02:00 Drama Serial:

02:30 Mohanogor

03:00 Shapno Chura

03:30 Brothers & Sisters

### STAR WORLD

08:30 30 Rock

09:00 Two & Half Men

09:30 Kyle XY

10:00 Brothers & Sisters

10:30 Discover India

11:00 One Way Ticket

11:30 Bird of Prey

### ESPN

09:30 Icc World Twenty 20 (Cricket) South Africa Vs Bangladesh

10:30 Icc Cricket World (Cricket)

11:30 Sportscenter India (Sport News)

12:30 Cricket Taking Guard - Icc World T20 (Cricket)

01:45 Icc World Twenty 20 (Cricket) Wanderers, South Africa Super Eights

02:20 Icc World Twenty 20 - Mid Wicket (Cricket)

03:45 Icc World Twenty 20 (Cricket) Cape Town, South Africa Super Eights

07:20 Icc World Twenty 20 - Mid Wicket (Cricket)

08:30 Outsmarting Terror

09:30 Iranian Embassy Siege

10:30 Death Of The Sun

11:30 One Way Ticket

12:30 Bird of Prey

### Radio Foorti

07:00am Hello Dhaka (Apu)

11:00am Amar 98.4 (Nusrat)

03:00pm Dhaka Calling (Salib)

07:00pm Seven Eleven (Sadia)

11:00pm Late Night Show (Shuvo)

03:00am Back to Back music

### NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

08:30 Dive To Tiger Central

09:30 The Living Edens

10:30 Monsoon Railway

12:30 Greece

01:30 Revolutionary Rhythms

02:00 Hot Salsa : Cuba

03:00 The Wolfman

04:30 Air Crash Investigation

05:30 Get Outta Town

06:00 Jassel, Ingrid, Hogan

06:30 Big Bang

07:00 Loggerhead & Green Turtle

08:30 Millau Bridge