

CULTURALFEAST

10th Dhaka International Film Festival

Organiser: Rainbow Film Society
Date: January 17
Venue: National Museum Auditorium
11:00 am The Girl on the Stone (Mexico)
01:00 pm Mukshin (Malaysia)
03:00 pm Like Butterflies in the Light (Argentina)
05:00 pm Kissed by Winter (Norway)
07:00 pm The Journey (India)

Solo Kathak Dance

Artist: Tahmina Anwar
Organiser: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy and Rewaz Performer's School
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 17
Time: 6 pm

Theatre

Title: Konjush
Troupe: Loko Nalyedal
Venue: National Theatre Stage, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy
Date: January 18
Time: 6:30 pm

Title: Death Knocks

Troupe: Palakar
Venue: Palakar Studio, 133/3, Natak Swarni, New Bailey Road
Date: January 17, 18
Time: 6:30 pm

Sculpture and Art Exhibition

Title: Brave World of Structure
Artist: Ivy Zaman
Venue: Shilpanigraha Gallery, House 26, road 3, Dhanmondi
Date: January 19-February 2
Time: 12pm-6pm

In search of a lost childhood

An Iranian globetrotter in Dhaka

KARIM WAHEED

"I lost my childhood to a war. The Iran-Iraq War had taken away so many childhoods!" -- says Iranian globetrotter Khosrow Yousefi. Yousefi, on his bicycle, has been to 20 countries in Asia and Africa including Azerbaijan, Turkey, Lebanon, Syria, U.A.E, Togo, Benin, Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria, Pakistan, India, and now he is in Bangladesh.

An interesting aspect of his expedition is that, Yousefi collects artworks from the children in each country. He has had a few exhibitions of these paintings and drawings (one in Islamabad, Pakistan for instance) but he has so far refused to sell any of them. In Bangladesh, Yousefi is holding an exhibition at 'Chhobir Haat' that started from yesterday (cross the street from Institute of Fine Arts, Shahbagh) and the artworks on display are on sale. The proceeds will go to Sidr victims.

"I know what going to sleep without a meal feels like, I know what freezing in the winter without warm clothes does to one. The difference is, war made me suffer and in this case, a natural calamity has devastated these people," says Yousefi.

On the raison d'être behind collecting drawings and paintings by children, Yousefi says, "I used to be an art teacher and I always see this exuding sense of harmony, warmth and friendship in the artworks by children."

Struggling with his English, the Iranian voyager says, "I want a 'proper world' for children. A proper world for children would be a utopia for everyone. The divisions between humans have been created by adults. Children do not see differences; these divisions and boundaries are impure and unnatural to them. In different countries, you may notice the differences in nature and surroundings in the drawings by children but the inner-messages are pretty much the same."

Yousefi began his journey three years ago.



The exhibition of artworks by children, collected by Yousefi, held in Islamabad, Pakistan

From Iran, he first went to Azerbaijan. "I speak Azeri, and I wanted an uncomplicated start," says Yousefi. From Azerbaijan, he went to Georgia, Armenia and Turkey. He speaks highly of the hospitality he received in Cameroon and Bangladesh but not all places have been kind. Because of his nationality, Yousefi endured difficulties in Gabon and had to return to Cameroon.

Yousefi entered India through Punjab. He went to Varanasi, as a film by Makhmalbaf (Yousefi's favourite filmmaker) had triggered his interest in the city by the Ganges,

regarded holy by Hindus. From Kolkata, the cyclist started towards Bangladesh and crossed the Benapole border. He arrived here a week ago.

Yousefi would like to urge everyone to contribute according to his/her means, to the Sidr victims. "Not everyone has to buy a drawing or painting at the exhibition. You can also donate clothes and other items, whatever you would like to or can."

Where would his journey end? Yousefi says with a smile, "The day I'm convinced that I've truly experienced childhood."

Poet Bande Ali's 102nd birth anniversary today

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR TOPU, Pabna

Today (January 17) marks the 102nd birth anniversary of poet Bande Ali Miah. One of the most prolific Bengali poets, Bande Ali's poetry epitomises the simple Bengali rural life. Not only was he a poet he was also a famous painter and script writer.

Bande Ali Miah was born on January 17 in 1906 in the Radhanagar village by the river 'Ichhamati' in Pabna town. The poet completed a diploma in painting from the Indian Art Academy in Calcutta in 1930. Known for his vivid depictions of rural Bengal, Bande Ali also left an ample collection of works for children.

"Unpretentious representation of our casual lives in his writings encouraged me to write," poet Sufia Kamal once remarked on Bande Ali's writing.

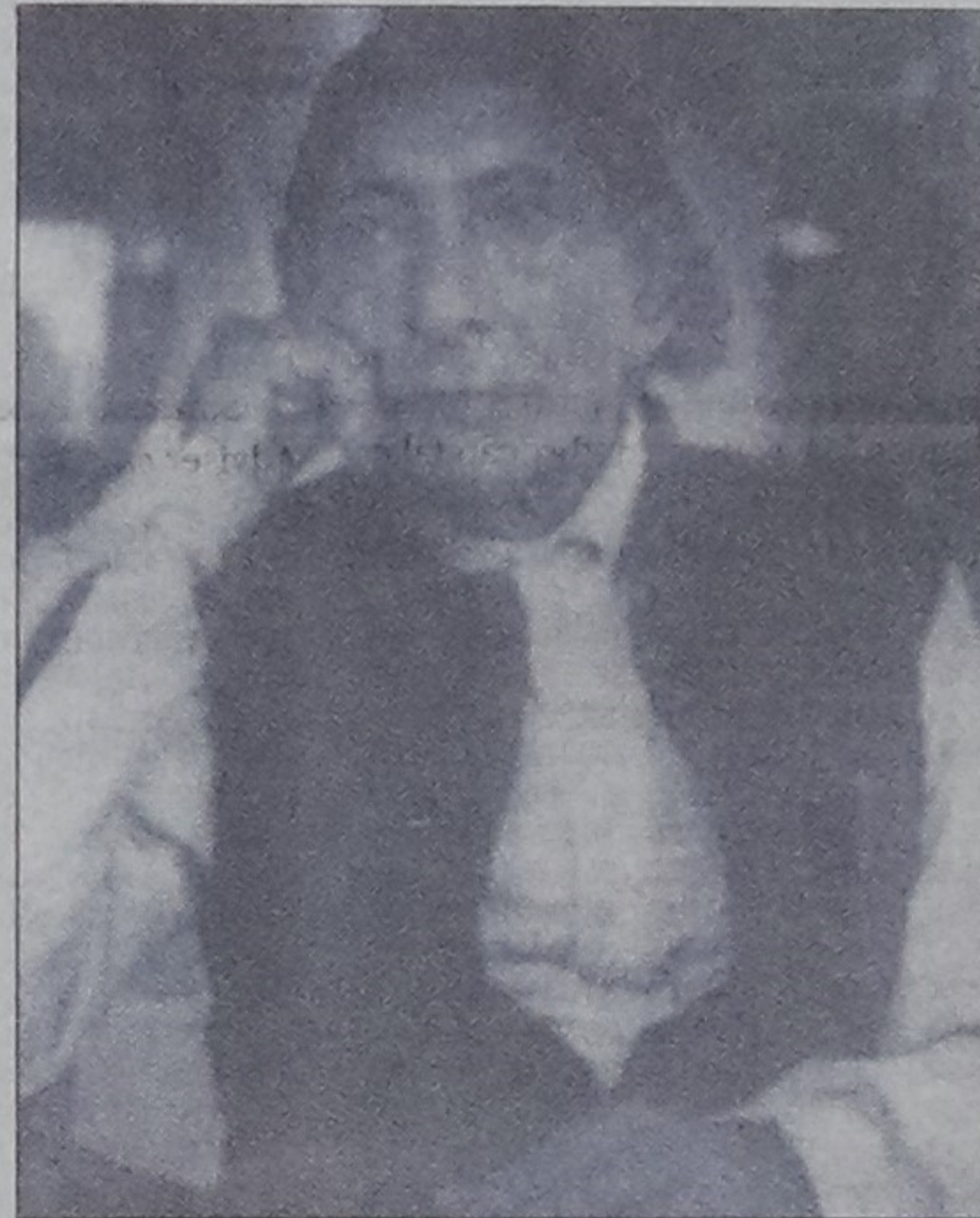
The first book by the poet Char-Jamai was published in 1927 from Calcutta Ashutosh Library. Eighty-four books by the litterateur include poetry, prose and plays.

His renowned poem Maynamotir Char was published in 1931 from D.M Library in Calcutta. Considered one of his most remarkable works, the poem paints a magical, yet very real picture:

Borshar jol shoriya giyechhey jagiye utchheychar Gung-shaliker gorto khuriya bandhitechhey shoreyghar Gahen nadir dui paar diya aankhi jaye joto duurey Akasher megh atithi jeno go tahar aangina jurey

"These are fine pictures, in Maynamotir Char, where you have painted the casual life of people living by the Padma," Rabindranath Tagore wrote to Bande Ali in a letter in 1932.

Among his books Anurag (1933), Padma Nadir Char (1933), Shapno Shadi (1936), Madhumatir Char (1946), Jagrato Jouban (1949), Moner Mour (1956), Aranno Godhuli (1958), Tasher Ghar (1954) enjoy mass popularity. Megh Kumari, Jongoler Khabar, Jangaler Raja and



Poet Bande Ali Miah

Shishuder Bishad Shindhu -- are his books for children. Bande Ali was a school teacher by profession in Calcutta until 1947. After the Partition, the poet came back to the country. Later he was appointed at the Rajshahi Radio Centre in 1964 as a scriptwriter, where he worked till his death. Bande Ali passed away on June 27 1979 in Rajshahi.

Pabna district administration had arranged a discussion and cultural programme today in 'Pabna Banomali Auditorium' marking the poet's birth anniversary.



10th Dhaka International Film Festival



"I'm delighted to have the world premiere of my movie at this festival"

In conversation with young American filmmaker Douglas Chang

ERSHAD KAMOL

The world premier of young American independent filmmaker-screenplay writer Douglas Chang's debut fiction film Absent Father was held at the 10th Dhaka International Film Festival. At the festival, Chang spoke to the Daily Star about his film.

On the reason behind having the world premiere of his debut film in Dhaka, Chang said, "I'm an upcoming American filmmaker of Chinese descent and I thought I should screen my first feature film in a developing Asian country like Bangladesh. And I'm delighted to have the world premiere of my movie at this festival."

"The theme of my movie is a combination of reality and spirituality. To me, people of Asian countries are more concerned with values and spirituality compared to the western world. I believe people from the developing countries will be my ideal audience. This aspect also motivated me to screen my film here in Dhaka."

Chang's movie Absent Father highlights the dilemmas a teenage



Douglas Chang

unwed mother faces. Douglas Chang and Allison Sherman jointly wrote the screenplay. On the theme of the film, Chang said, "It is a common social issue in the US, but most of Hollywood movies these days miss these types of themes. Before making this film, I've directed several documentary films for television. I always try to touch psychological, sociological, political and mythological aspects and I often present reality through myth. Life always has mythological

dimensions whether we acknowledge it or not. In Absent

Father I've tried to symbolically present the myth of the 'Virgin Mother' through the story of a contemporary American girl."

The film was shot in Boston and most of the actors in the film are teenagers. On his directorial composition Chang said, "I've always tried to frame the beautiful and ugly aspects of life together. I've also used several close-up shots of the protagonist."

Commenting on the independent film market in the US, the young filmmaker said that quite a few talented directors are making interesting movies and sophisticated urban people are the main viewers of this type of cinema.

Douglas Chang graduated in Literature from New York University. He completed his MA in Film Studies from the same university. Chang began his career as an assistant director while he was a student.

Chang is currently working on his new film, Sporda, which follows the aftermath of a plane crash in a small town.

"M for Mother": The only movie screened in the 'Spiritual Section'

Though prior to the event, the director claimed that the Spiritual Film section would be one of the major attractions at the 10th Dhaka International Film Festival, only one spiritual movie received censorship clearance to be screened. On January 15 and 16 two shows of the Iranian spiritual movie M for Mother, written and directed by Rasoul Mollagholipour, were held at the festival.

M for Mother follows the struggles of a mother who is expecting her first baby. The message of the film is that one of the most precious gifts to the entire humanity from God is a mother.

The Spiritual Film section was sponsored by Religion Today Film Festival, Italy. A package of 12 spiritual films arrived in Dhaka for the festival. But the organisers failed to pay Tk 10,000 for the cen-

sorship clearance certificate for each of the films.

Representatives -- Simon Semprini and Katia Malatesta -- of Religion Today Film Festival have also arrived at the festival. Katia Malatesta said, "Though religion is the theme of these films, the movies are also artistically rich. These types of movies educate people to be more tolerant and encourage values and love for humanity."

Ajay Devgan: Another Bollywood actor turns director

PALLAB BHATTACHRYA, New Delhi

After Aamir Khan with critically acclaimed Taare Zameen Par, another Bollywood actor Ajay Devgan is set to don the role of director for the first time.

Here recently to promote his just-released feature film Halla Bol directed by Raj Kumar Santoshi, Devgan, the twice National Award winning actor, said he would direct U. Me Aur Hum, starring himself and his actress-wife Kajol.

Direction is something that is not surprising for Devgan who had been an assistant to his father Veeru.

Meanwhile, the box office success for Halla Bol, which also features Vidya Balan and Pankaj Kapur, is important for both



Ajay Devgan

Santoshi and Devgan.

After the box office debacle of his previous movie Khakee featuring superstar Amitabh Bachchan in 2004, Santoshi is hoping to stage a comeback. Inspired by veteran director Govind Nihalani with whom he had worked as an assistant, Santoshi had in the past made movies on serious issues like The Legend of Bhagat Singh (also starring Ajay Devgan in the title role), Damini, Pukar, China Gate, Lajja and comedy Andaz Apna Apna.

For Ajay, Halla Bol is crucial after the failure of his previous Hindi movie Cash, acting in which he admitted was "a mistake".

Halla Bol is the story of a theatre actor who makes it big in Bollywood but defects from his path.

Tribute to Selim Al Deen "Chaka" to be aired on Ekushey TV on Friday

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On January 18, Ekushey TV will air Morshedul Islam's celebrated feature film Chaka, written by the recently deceased Professor Selim Al Deen, at 7:30 pm. The film has won several international awards. Chaka is the first Bangladesh film to be released at three theatres in

France in 1995.

The film zooms in on a harrowing tale of a corpse that needs to be buried. It is carried to far flung cities and villages in search of a piece of land but no one is willing to go beyond the prejudices. Actor Amirul Haque Choudhury plays the lead role in the film.



A scene from the film

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



Chhayabari
On Channel-1 at 9:35 pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Shahiduzzaman Selim, Romana Sajjad

Predator
On Star Movies at 5:15 pm
Genre: Action/Thriller/Sci-fi
Cast: Arnold Schwarzenegger, Carl Weathers

Table with TV channel logos (BTV, Channel-1, ATN Bangla, Channel 1, BanglavisioN, Rtv) and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

Table with Channel-i and ETV logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

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Table with Rtv Exclusive and ntv logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

Table with Amar O Gaitay Ichhey Halo and Channel 1 logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

Table with BANGLAVISION and Channel 1 logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

Table with STAR MOVIES, STAR PLUS, and NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.

Table with Radio Footi 88.0 FM, Radio Today 89.6 FM, and THE HISTORY CHANNEL logos and their respective program schedules for January 17, 2008.