

Film actor Manna passes away

ERSHAD KAMOL

The movie industry in Bangladesh is shocked at the sudden demise of actor S.M. Manna. One of the leading actors of Dhaliwood, Manna, passed away yesterday at the United Hospital in Dhaka. He died of heart attack.

Born in 1964 in Tangail district, Manna acted in over 300 movies. Most of them have done profitable business in an era when the Dhaka-based movie industry faced a drought. Manna's career was initiated in 1984 after he was discovered through a talent search programme by the Film Development Corporation.

Manna was the General Secretary of Bangladesh Film Actors Association. As the General Secretary of the organisation, he had remarkable contribution to the ongoing movement against 'vulgarity' in the Dhaliwood film industry.

Commenting on his sudden death, Managing Director of Bangladesh Film Development Corporation, A.N.M. Badrul Amin said, "He was one of the most popular film actors in the country. His participation in the ongoing movement against the rampant trend of vulgarity in the mainstream Bangladeshi cinema was significant. Manna's demise is a great loss to the whole industry."

Noted filmmaker Chashi Nazrul Islam said, "We have a shortage of accomplished film actors. This is certainly an irreparable loss."

Film actor Moushumi said, "We had performed in several popular



movies such as *Anonto Prem*. He was a great actor and a great human being."

On an average, Manna acted in 10 movies each year. Among films released last year, Manna played lead roles in commercially successful films including *Shajghar*, *Khomotar Garom*, *Moner Shathe Juddho*, *Machine-man*, *Uta-Palta* and *Shorut Shorut Khela*.

Manna also emerged as a film producer. As a producer, he casted once popular actors who left the movie industry as a protest against vulgarity. Popular actor Razzak said, "Manna encouraged me to work in a film produced by him. The movie is now in production. I don't know what would happen to the film."

The directors and producers of the 20 films in pipeline, in which Manna had been cast, are seemingly facing uncertainty.

Manna received several prestigious awards including a National Award for Best Actor in 2005.

Two-day Rabindra fair in Mymensingh ends

AMINUL ISLAM, Mymensingh

The two-day long 'Rabindra Mela' marking Nobel laureate Poet Rabindranath Tagore's first visit to Mymensingh, concluded recently (February 16). The programmes held under the canopy of a banyan tree at the Teachers Training College (for men) premises were organised by Rabindra Parshad's local unit.

Tagore arrived in Mymensingh by train from Dhaka on February 15 in 1926 on a four-day visit. The then Zamindars arranged special programmes in the district, where people gathered to get a glimpse of the poet. Tagore was accorded several receptions. Later, he visited the palace of the then Zamindar of Muktagacha, Maharaja Shishikanta Acharya Chowdhury.

A discussion held on the last day of the Rabindra Mela was chaired by Rokeya Begum, Vice-president of Rabindra Parshad. Professor Shantanu Kaiser took part in the discussion on "Rabindranath and Bangladeshi Culture".

Earlier Professor Sardar Abdus Sattar, Director (Training) of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education, Dhaka, inaugurated

the programme. Professor Md. Mukarram Hossain, President of Rabindra Parshad chaired the event. Professor Sattar discussed on "The arrival of Tagore in Mymensingh: Memory and Importance".

Habibuzzaman Khurum, Secretary of Rabindra Parshad; artist Dulal Chandra Gain; Poet Yazdani Koraishi; Poet Swadhin Chowdhury; Poet Nazrul Hayat; Emdadul Haque Millat; Professor Reazul Islam; Professor Atiqur Rahman and Emdadul Haque Selim, among others attended the programme. Members of Shishutirtha Anandhani, Udhichi Shilpi Goshthi and Alokdhara rendered the opening song.

A colourful rally was brought out in the district town on the occasion.



Artists of Shishutirtha Anandodhani sing at the programme

PHOTO: STAR

ITI Theatre Festival '08 Four plays to be staged today

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

On the second day (today) of the theatre festival arranged by Bangladesh Centre of International Theatre Institute (BCITI), in association with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA), four plays will be staged.

Shubochan Natya Sangsad will stage its popular production *Rupobati* at the National Theatre Stage, BSA, Nasrin Jahan's play *Rupobati* highlights the scourge of poverty in the rural areas, where people are often compelled to leave their dearest ones in search of a better life.

The play features the conflict between love and destitution. A flute-player in the play wanders from village to village in search of the killer of his beloved, Rupobati. Who is the killer? Is he an individual or a faceless entity? At the end of the play one comes to the realisation that it is abject hardship that makes people like the flutist and Rupobati suffer. *Rupobati* is directed by Khaled Khan.

At the Experimental Theatre Stage, BSA, South Asian Ibsen Centre from Chittagong will stage *Ichchha Mrityu*, a translation of the Ibsen play



A scene from the play *Rupobati*

Rosmersholm. Through the character of Rebecca West, who is a free-thinker, critic and novelist, *Ichchha Mrityu* addresses the deceptive and self-righteous defenders of traditional values. *Ichchha Mrityu* is directed by Kuntal Barua.

Padatik Natyasangsad will present Masum Reza's play *Jolbalika* at the Mahila Samity Stage. *Jolbalika*

depicts the story of the village dwellers whose lives are interwoven with the river. The playwright also lashes out against the ills of the rural society such as gender inequality. *Jolbalika* is directed by Shamsul Alam Bakul.

Department of Theatre and Music, University of Dhaka (DU), will stage *Urubhangam* at Natmandol, DU campus.

ITI Worldwide Committee's message

On the occasion of the weeklong theatre festival and seminar by BCITI, The International Theatre Institute (ITI) Worldwide Committee has greeted its Bangladesh chapter. In her message, ITI Executive Director Jennifer M. Walpole has highlighted the arrangement as a "great achievement".

The Executive Director writes, "Like its previous arrangements, the

Bangladesh Centre is offering unique opportunities for encouraging dialogue between theatre activists and dealing with global themes of importance to all."

The letter also reads, "During the theatre festival, dedicated to Selim Al Deen, those from abroad will have an opportunity to appreciate the universality of the celebrated playwright, who has left a treasured legacy of

powerful poetic theatre."

Highlighting the Bangladesh theatre movement, Jennifer M. Walpole further writes, "The Bangladeshi artists have evolved a theatre that has worked to preserve and restore the humanity and identity of a nation that has endured a brutal war and attempted genocide. This theatre of tolerance and dialogue can be a powerful source of strength for us all."

Boshonto Utshob, award-giving programme in Netrakona

JAHANGIR ALAM, Netrakona

A two-day long *Boshonto Utshob* was held recently at the Netrakona Public Library premises. Apart from a colourful cultural programme, *Boshonto Bondona*, the celebration also included conferring the 'Khaleqad Chowdhury Memorial Award'.

Netrakona Sahitya Samaj, a literary organisation, arranged the cultural programme on the occasion.

This year, noted poet Abu Hasan Shahriar was awarded for his contribution to Bangla poems, by the organisation.

On the first evening, a discus-

sion was arranged by Netrakona Sahitya Samaj. Kamruzzaman Chowdhury, the general secretary of the organisation, welcomed the audience. So far the 'Sahitya Samaj' has awarded 12 renowned poets, writers and novelists.

Netrakona Sahitya Samaj has been celebrating the first day of spring every year since its inception in 1992.

Professor Jatin Serkar, poet Nirmolendu Goon, Abu Akkas Ahmed, poet Emdad Khan, Shafiqul Islam Yunus and poet Kazi Nasir Mamun discussed the life and works of the veteran poet Khaleqad Chowdhury.



A rally brought out by Netrakona Sahitya Samaj

PHOTO: STAR

In conversation Harun Farocki with his new vision of films

FAYZA HAQ

"I've been to India two years ago, and I expect to go there again next month," says Harun Farocki, the visiting German film filmmaker, about his intrigue in South Asia. He adds, "I've also been to Japan, Korea, Indonesia, Singapore and Vietnam. They are all interesting places to be in and have a lot of diversity."

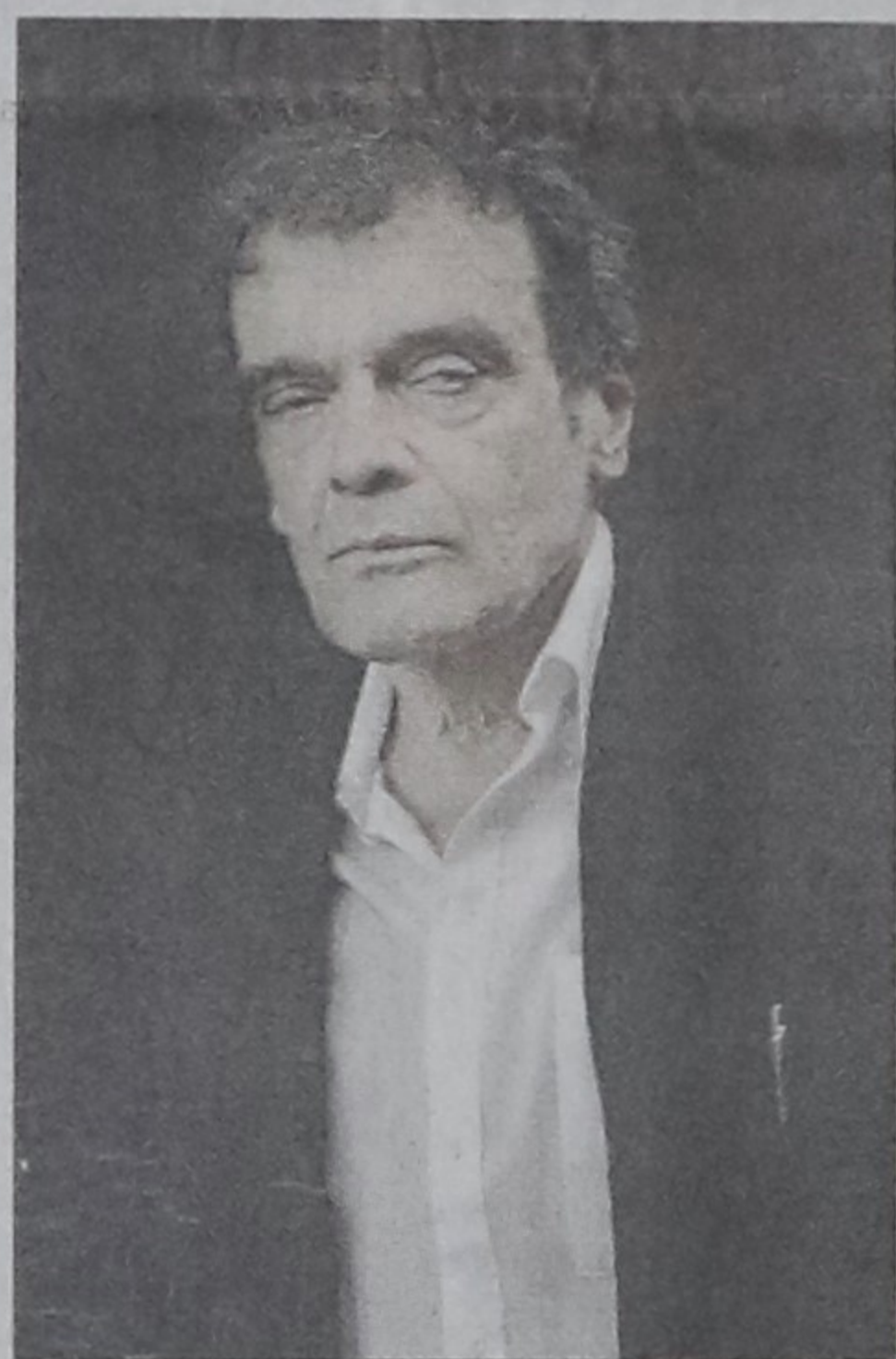
"The general economics have changed in these places in the last 20 years, he says, and even though none of them have a large film industry, they make interesting films. Independent group of activists can produce something fascinating even in places like Kazakhstan," says Farocki. "I always dream of an international television chain which would show films from a hundred countries."

Asked what he liked about his trip to India, Farocki says that in places like Bangalore, Kolkata and Delhi, one meets so many different types of people who are very knowledgeable and whose works can be so informative.

Farocki was 22 when he entered a film school in West Berlin. This was the time when the Nouvelle Vague came up in France and Alexander Kluge had made his first film. Says the filmmaker, "It was obvious at that time something new would take place in the film world and that standards would change. It was not easy to do independent work and I made films for children like *Sesame Street* to make a living for a while. It took ten more years to do what I wanted to do."

Talking about why he made documentaries

rather than feature films Farocki says that it had to do a lot with temperament. For a feature film one has to work on the production for years, especially if you're not a well-known filmmaker like the ones in Hollywood in the '50s and '60s. He collaborated with Pezoldt,



Harun Farocki

working on scripts but kept himself free to experiment with documentaries.

The films that had the best result were not ones that he enjoyed working with most. When he made the *Videograms of the Revolution*, which dealt with the Romanian revolution, he enjoyed it greatly as it was a totally new world for him. He found it fascinating, as he is interested in political developments. The prerecorded materials were private footages from Romania. It was an adventure as he hadn't done anything like this before and it was definitely an enjoyable experience for him.

Asked what in his opinion makes a successful film -- the storyline, acting or direction -- Farocki says, "There is the famous Italian film about a child in a concentration camp but you can't put your finger on to what is the success of the film. It is the theme and the acting that makes the film great."

Has he taken part in films himself? The director responds that acting for him was a fun thing and he did it to please his colleagues and friends. Talking about his progression in the film world, Farocki said, "I was lucky that my thematic approach appealed to people, 'I didn't plan everything; it just happened.'"

Dwelling on the film scene in Germany, Farocki's final comment was, "Some of the young people from the Berlin School of Film Making are good both in the documentary and feature films."

Nine of Farocki's films were recently screened at the Goethe-Institut in Dhaka.



Kanthoshadhan Abritti Sangsad held a programme recently, featuring recitation of works by poets who have evolved in the greater Bogra region, between the '40s and '70s. The programme was held at the Bogra Zilla Parishad Auditorium

PHOTO: STAR



On the occasion of Pahela Falgun, Nupuranjali, a dance institution in Rajshahi organised a cultural programme at the Social Forest Department garden recently. Young students of the institute, attired in saffron, yellow, orange and red, took part in dance recitals

PHOTO: STAR

ON AIR

PICK OF THE DAY



RC Travel On
On Channel-1 at 10:00 pm
Travel Show
Host: Shahriar Shakil



According to Jim
On Star World at 09:30 pm
TV Series
Cast: James Belushi, Courtney Thorne-Smith

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, 9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:15 am.

ATN BANGLA
News (Bangla) at 7:00 am, 10:00 am, 2:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11 pm.
News (English) 8:20 am, 7:00 pm.
Latest News (Bangla) at 9:00 am, 10:00 am, 11:00 am, 1:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

CHANNEL 1
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 2:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 7:30 pm, 10:00 pm, 12:30 am.

BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30 pm, 1:30 pm, 5:00 pm, 7:15 pm, 10:30 pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00 am, 12:00 am, 4:00 pm.
News (English) at 6:00 pm.

Rtv
News (Bangla) at 10:15 pm, and 12:15 am.

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

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

BTV
08:15 Shuprobhat
08:45 World Round Up
11:15 Documentary Programme
12:00 Maa O Shishur Katha
01:00 Shei Din-er Katha
01:30 Banshuri
02:15 Onu Poromani
02:40 Khela Dhula
03:05 Shukhi Poribar
03:30 Dolon Chapa
04:30 Shur-er Shurobbi
05:05 Debate
06:10 Akush Amar Ononkar
06:35 Nritter Taley Taley
06:50 Bulbul
08:30 Protidin Bangladesh
08:35 Krishi Diba Nishi
09:00 Chhayachhondo
10:30 Musical Programme: Bhalobashi Gaan
11:00 Talk Show: Date Line Dhaka
06:10

ATN BANGLA
08:15 Aker
08:35 Shagbadpatro
08:30 Musical Programme: Ekhumto
09:15 Drama Serial: Alok Nigor
10:30 Talk Show: Onnyodrishti
11:05 Shushtho Thakun
11:35 Musical Programme: Nolon Chhobir Gaan
12:15 Motamot
01:25 Selected
02:30 Daily Soap: Doll's House
03:10 Drama Serial: O Amir Chokkhu Nai
03:45 Children's

CHANNEL-i
04:20 Chhotoder Prithibi
04:45 Agricultural Programme: Shomali Din
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabor
05:10 Shushtho Thakun
05:45 Business Week
06:20 Documentary
08:00 Programme: Ashay Pasher Manush
08:45 Drama Serial: Swapno Mangal
11:30 ATN Unplugged
12:00 Talk Show: Projonna Bangladesh
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News
06:05 Tagore Song
09:30 Shagbadpatro
09:30 Musical Programme: Bangladesh Public Reaction
09:50 Grameenphone Titho Matra
11:05 Educational Programme
12:30 Citycell Taroka Katha
01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan
02:35 Selected
03:05 Banijyo O Orthoniti
03:30 Hindoyer Gaan
04:30 FCT Business Talk
05:30 Wand Boimela Shorashori
06:00 Ek Dui Teen
06:40 Super Man
07:50 BBC Bangladesh Shinglap
09:35 Drama Serial: Neel Tapantore
10:00 RC Travel On
11:30 Drama Serial: 69

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