

## WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

**Film Screening**  
Title: 2nd Int'l Film Week '08  
Organiser: JSFS  
Venue: Central Auditorium, JU  
April 19  
3:00 pm Butterfly's Tongue (Spain)  
5:00 pm Turtles Can Fly (Iraq)  
7:00 pm A Short Film About Love (Russia)



**Baishakhi Mela**  
Organiser: Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation  
Venue: Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre  
Date: April 14-24  
Time: 10am to 8pm



**Photography Exhibition**  
Title: Zoom in! Discovering New Horizons  
Venue: Drik Gallery, H 58, R 15A (new), Dhanmondi  
Date: April 16-20  
Time: 3pm-8pm

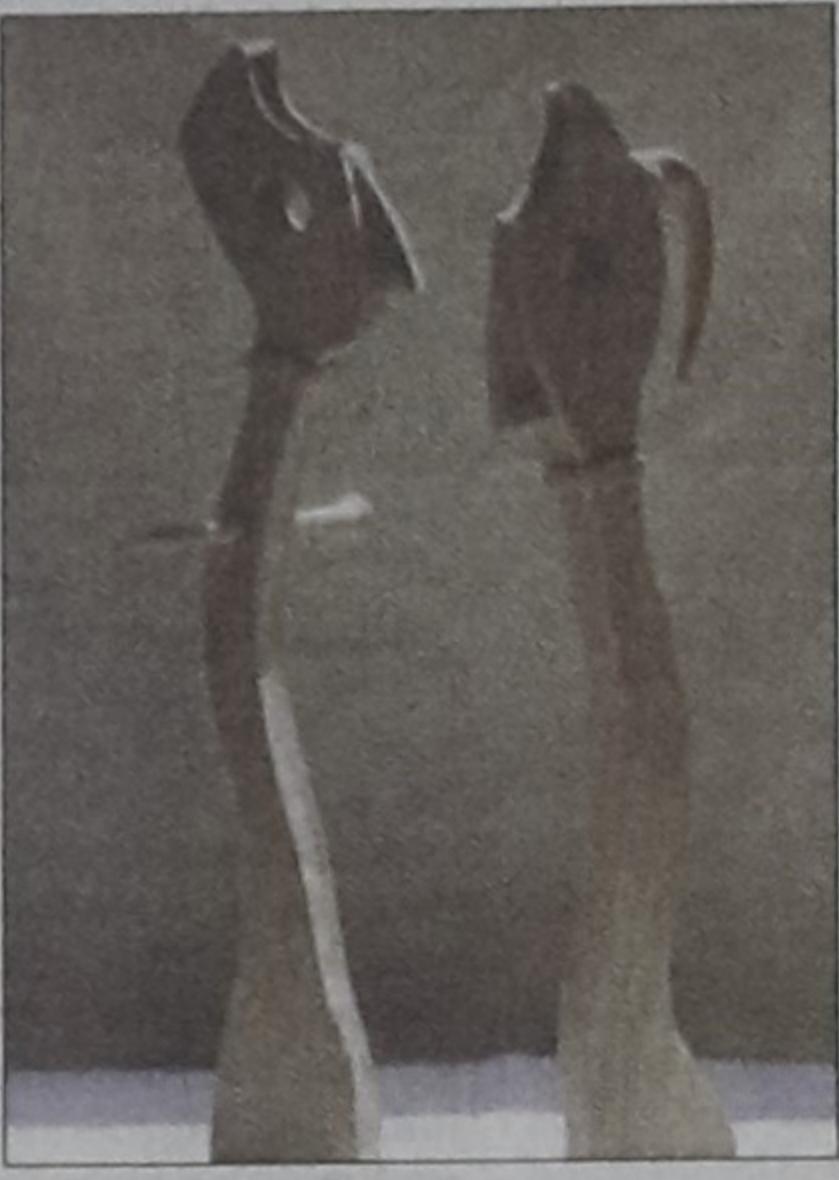
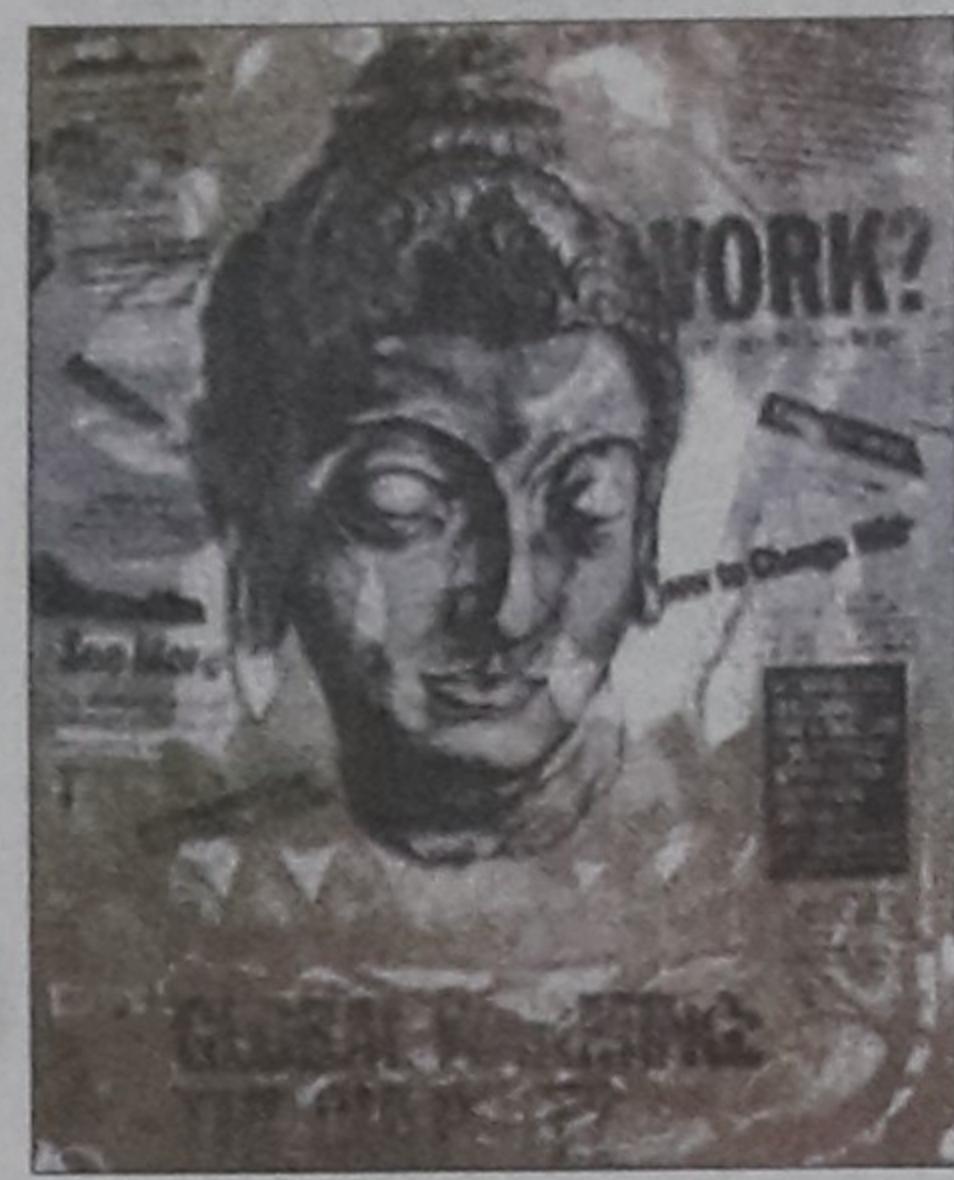


**Film Screening**  
Title: The Great Dictator  
Director: Charles Chaplin  
Venue: Bangladesh Film Centre, 160 Lake Circus (4th floor), Kalabagan  
Date: April 19  
Time: 4pm, 7pm



## A medley of paintings, prints and posters

Exhibition of works by 77 young artists



(From left) Artworks by Sadia Sharmin (print), Q.H.M. Wahiduzzaman (ceramics), Romena Afroz (oriental art) and Farida Sultana (painting)

FAYZA HAQ

Seventy-seven young artists in their final year at the Institute of Fine Arts (IFA), DU held a two-day exhibition at Zainul Gallery recently. The display included the works of students of drawing and painting, graphic design, printmaking, sculpture, oriental art, craft and ceramic.

Md. Kamaluddin's work includes a seated old man, with a band on his head, large beads at this neck and a *ganchha* in his hands. This is done in black and

white. Isaba Farhin's nature brings in a dream-like depiction of trees, bushes, leaves and the pond at IFA.

Horses done by Palash Kumar Paul brings in two charging steeds, with champing hooves and swishing tails and manes. The still life by Malika Khan includes an arrangement with a clock, ashtray, book, flowers and flowing piece of apple-green silk. *Old Dhaka*, done by sweeps of ochre and brown is a delightful creation in watercolour by Palash Datta.

The mother and child theme is brought in by Tapan Kumar Gope in shades of brown and black. Azhar bin Farhad's red and pink horses, seen against the backdrop of trees, landmasses and splashes of clouds construe a mature creation. Fishermen with their boats are seen with an expanse of sky, boats and houses in Adnan Sufian's painting.

Realism is seen in Farida Sultana's portrait of middle-aged man. In contrast is Al Akrh Sarkar's abstraction in shades of black and grey. Muhammad Nizamudda's sketch of a seated man is interesting. So is Ashraf Islam's work on the same theme and in the same media, only his subject appears

more gaunt.

The yellow blossoms with their grey-green leaves and stalks by Farjana Ahmed is delightful. Old houses with washing set out to dry by Asaheque-ul-Haque are good examples of cityscape. Flowers and women set a happy mood by Nawshaba Daliya. Md. Jahir Uddin's standing nude figure in green and brown, with a red chair in the distance is interesting too.

Sadia Sharmin's print work contains a Buddha head and a handful of lettering in beige and grey. The poster with musical instruments by Mujahidul Islam is also eye-catching.

Flower arrangements in tumbler and vase in pale purple and blue are presented by Afroz Sultana.

Rokhsana Zaman and Abu Ashnul Kabir, both from the Oriental Art section, have quaint paintings of women in scintillating colours. The carved human and bird faces by Sandip Kumar Debnath go along with the carved image of a rooster by Hujayama Kabir. The human figures by Riazul Islam, Kollol Kumar Das and Jayanta Kumar Talukdar are also worth noting.

The joint venture was definitely worth visiting.

## Movie Review

"The Forbidden Kingdom": One more time, everybody is Kung Fu fighting

At first glance *The Forbidden Kingdom*, the first movie to unite the martial arts action stars Jackie Chan and Jet Li, might be mistaken for a pastiche of its genre. Its main character, a Boston teenager named Jason (Michael Angarano), is obsessed with kung fu cinema, and the ways of modern Hollywood might lead the viewer to expect the filmmakers to mock, travesty or wink at this obsession.

Instead they -- the screenwriter John Fusco and the director Rob Minkoff -- clearly share it. And though it is an English-language film (albeit a heavily accented one), *The Forbidden Kingdom* is a faithful and disarmingly earnest attempt to honour some venerable and popular Chinese cinematic traditions.

These include a plot that is at times so convoluted as to teeter on the brink of incomprehensibility, a heavy brocade of martial honour and blurry mysticism, and above all a lot of wildly inventive fighting. The battles were choreographed by Yuen Wo Ping, one of the supreme masters of the art, and shot by Peter Pau, whose credits as a cinematographer include *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*.

Filmed on Chinese locations and studio sets, the movie shows the lavish artificiality that is, in the currently booming Chinese film industry, a sign of authenticity. Jackie Chan made his name in scruffier, scrappier Hong Kong entertainments, but as he has aged into an international superstar, he has come to seem at home just about everywhere. Here he plays

two roles: an elderly junk dealer in 21st-century Boston and an itinerant fighter, specialising in the "drunken fist" style of combat, in a mythic ancient China.

Jet Li also plays two parts, both in the mythic past: the mischievous Monkey King (who uses -- what else? -- monkey kung fu fighting techniques) and a monk.

After an inconclusive and thrilling



Jet Li (left) and Jackie Chan appear together in a film for the first time in *The Forbidden Kingdom*

battle -- surely the high point of the movie -- the monk and Chan's character join forces to help Jason, who has been transported to their world by a magic staff that once belonged to the Monkey King.

An evil warlord (Collin Chou) stands in their way, as does a white-haired witch (Li Bing Bing). Accompanying the monk, the drunk and the kid from Boston is a young

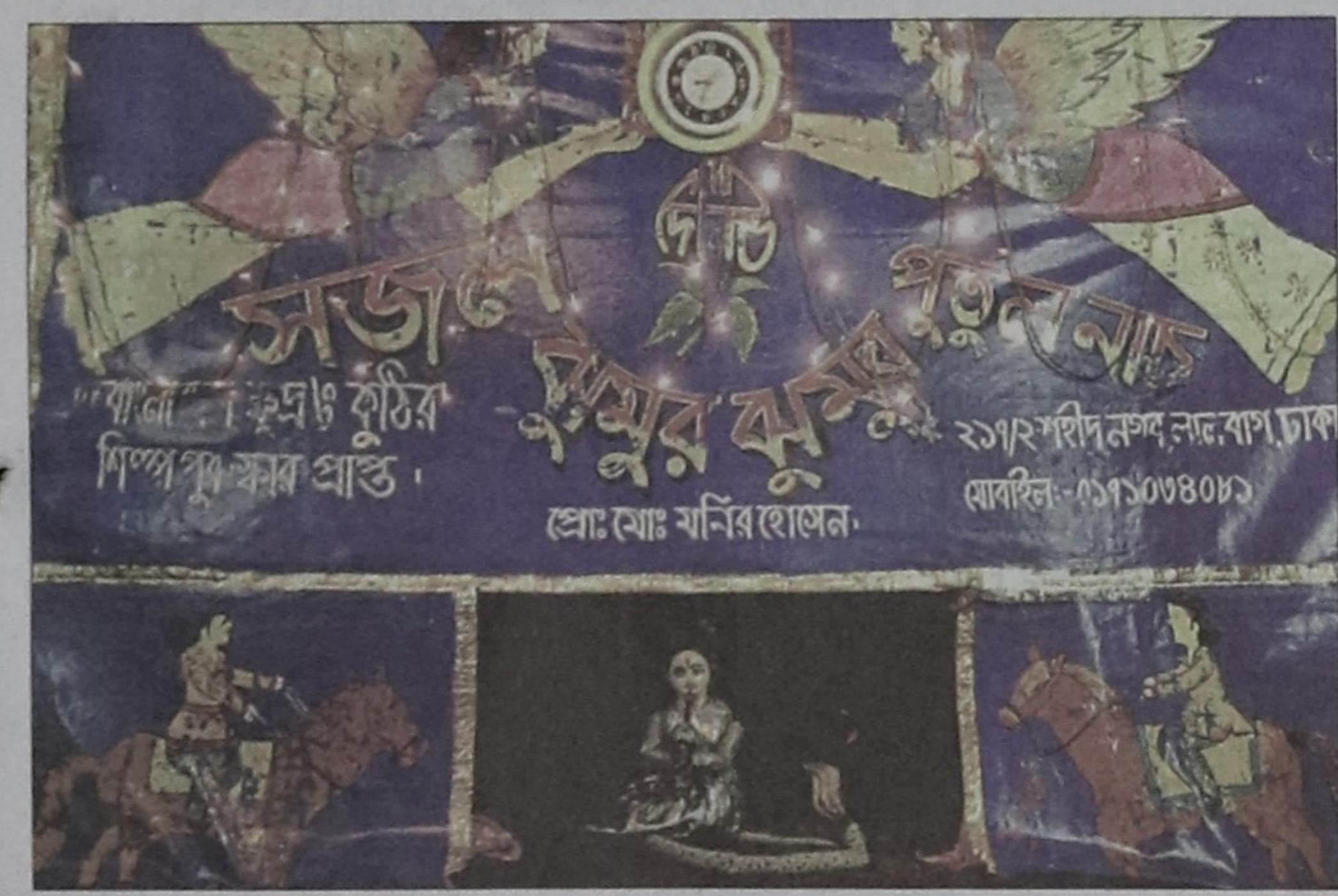
woman named Golden Sparrow (Liu Yifei), a fearsome warrior in her own right, who seeks to avenge the death of her parents.

There is both a surfeit of motives and a dearth of momentum driving the narrative of *The Forbidden Kingdom*, which often drags in the expository sections between set pieces. But many of the set pieces are dazzling, even if,

by now, audiences may be a bit jaded by high-flying wire work and artful blends of computer-generated imagery and traditional production design.

Still, the film works well enough as a primer for latecomers and a fix for insatiable martial arts lovers.

Source: The New York Times



**Putul Naach**  
(puppet theatre) and a stuntman on the 'wall of death' at the Shishu Academy Baishakhi Mela

PHOTOGRAPH BY MUMIT M.



A rally marked the Bangla New Year celebration at Comilla University

PHOTO: STAR

## 'Baha Utsab' in Dinajpur

KONGKON KARMAKER, Dinajpur

The indigenous community of North Bengal recently held the traditional *Baha Utsab* to celebrate the season with religious and cultural rituals including *Santali* songs and dances. A discussions was also a part of the festival.

Md. Monjurul Haque, UNO of Kaharol upazila, Dinajpur formally inaugurated the three day-long festival at the Dahandha-



A scene from the 'Baha Utsab'

School premises. *Baha Utsab* is one of the biggest festivals celebrated by the indigenous community in this part of the country.

Indigenous men, women and children from different parts of the region attired in traditional clothes thronged to the festival venue. The beats of *dhol* reverberated.

People in the household, in particular young girls or women, offer food to the priest. The priest's feet are washed with water as he is welcomed by a family.

After performing the rituals, the second part of programme starts with dances, songs and archery practice.

As the programme begins with the traditional music and dances of the indigenous people, a festive spirit takes over. Women in blinding yellow saris with red borders, celebrate the season.

The highlight of the programme is a demonstration of prowess in archery by the indigenous men. At least three hundred indigenous men from different districts took part in this competition this year.

Marking the festival, stalls offering food and other items were set up around the venue.

On the last day of the programme a discussion was held where speakers expressed their concerns as the indigenous traditions are under constant pressures.

## Shahrukh Khan learning Bangla?

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Bollywood superstar Shahrukh Khan appears to be learning Bangla after he bought the Kolkata Knight Riders team to play in the Indian Premier League Twenty20 competition.

At least one fan from Kolkata

heard smatterings of Bangla from Khan when he visited the actor's palatial house "Mannat" in Mumbai recently to buy the first ticket for the first match of Kolkata Knight Riders on April 20.

"Shubho Nabobarsho", were the words used by Khan in typical Bangla accent to greet the fan. That's not all. The actor

also gifted him a Nokia mobile phone for which the actor recently became the brand ambassador.

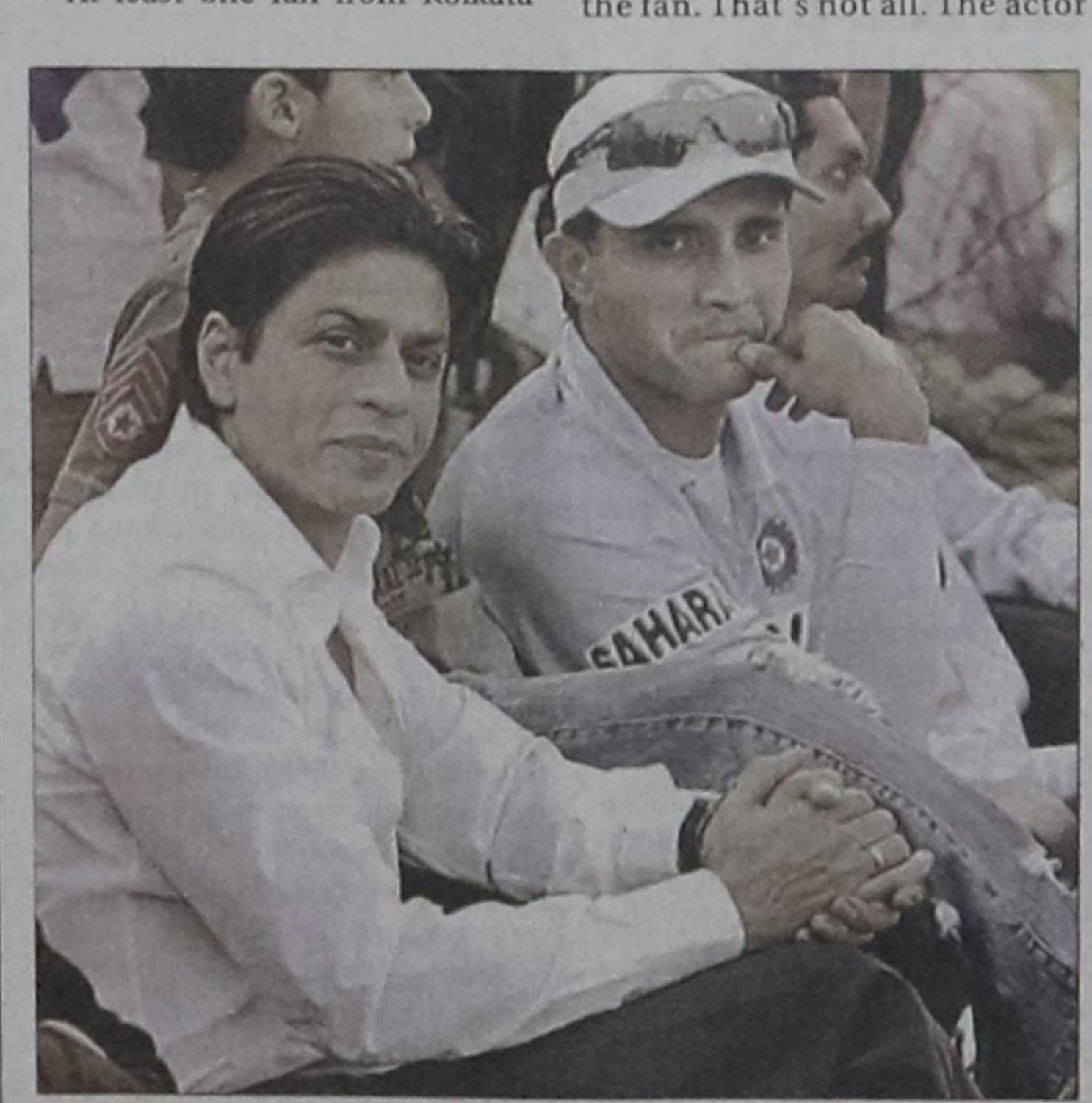
Born and brought up in Delhi, Khan shifted to Mumbai for his film career and had been frequently visiting Kolkata recently to prepare his team, which he bought for millions of dollars, for the upcoming competition.

In the process, he is believed to have picked up bits and pieces of colloquial Bangla. One does not know if Khan is using his newly acquired skill to converse with his team captain Sourav Ganguly.

The other key "Bangla link" and Bollywood glamour that Khan is using to help promote Kolkata Knight Riders in a city crazy about cricket and football are veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty, actresses Rani Mukerji and Bipasha Basu.

Khan is understood to be playing up the Bengali connection and drape Rani and Bipasha in a completely traditional look.

Khan is apparently trying to compete with other star promoters like Hrithik Roshan, Katrina Kaif, Deepika Padukone and Akshay Kumar who are brand ambassadors of teams like Sachin Tendulkar-led Mumbai Indians, Delhi Daredevils, Bangalore's Royal Challengers and Chennai Super Kings.



Shahrukh Khan (left) with Sourav Ganguly

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