#### IN MEMORIAM

## Lyricist Dr. Moniruzzaman passes away

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

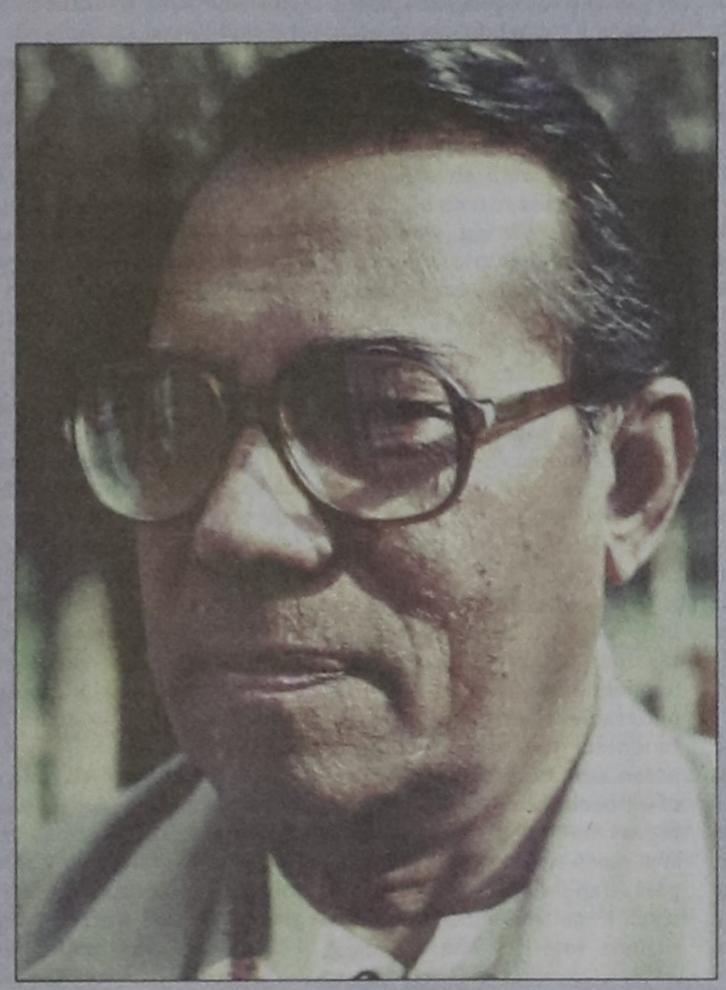
Eminent lyricist, educationist, litterateur and poet Dr. Mohammad Moniruzzamn (72) passed away on September 3 at the Bangladesh Medical College Hospital. He had an open-heart surgery recently. He was also suffering from kidney related ailments. The demise of Mohammad Moniruzzamn caused a wave of mourning in the cultural

Born on August 15, 1936 in Jessore, Dr. Moniruzzaman did his honours and masters in Bangla and Literature from the University of Dhaka (DU). He completed his PhD in 1969 and joined the Bangla Department, DU as a fellow in 1959 and as a teacher in 1962. He became the chairman of the department in

His versatile talent left a mark in various sectors of our cultural arena. One of the most successful lyricists in the '60s, he had written classics -- Amar desher matir gondhey, Tumi ki dekhechho kobhu, Asru diye lekha e gaan, Protidin tomaye dekhi shurjolokey, Premer naam bedona, Holud bato mehdi bato, Charagachhe phul phuitachhe and many more.

His poem, Kobita-e aar ki likhbo/ Jokhon buk-er roktey likhechi/ Ekti naam/ Bangladesh, deserves special recognition among the poems on Liberation War. Durlobh Din, Shankito Alokey, Protonu Protyasha Biponno Bishad and Bhashamoy Projapoti are some of his notable collections of poems. His researchbased works includes Bangla Kobita-e Chhondo, Adhunik Bangla Sahitya, Bangla Sahitya-e Bangaali Chetona, Adhunik Bangla Kobita and more.

Noted artiste Abdul Hadi said,



"He was my teacher at DU and later I had the opportunity to interact with him personally. My first playback song from the film Dak Babu was written by him. As a teacher, as a lyricist, as a poet, as a cultural activist and above all as a person, he was an ideal human being."

Mohammad Moniruzzaman left behind a son, a daughter, wife and a number of admirers and well wishers. His younger brother

Rafiquzzaman is also a noted lyricist. Mohammad Moniruzzaman received several awards including Ekushey Padak, Bangla Academy Padak and Alaol Padak for his contribution to Bangla language and literature.

His namaz-e-janaza was held yesterday at the Central Mosque, DU. Moniruzzaman will be buried in his hometown Jessore.

# Disgruntled with a cause

### In conversation with Anwar Hossain

ts & Entertainment

KARIM WAHEED

Though internationally renowned as a photographer, Anwar Hossain's contribution to Bangladeshi films is no less profound. Consider the critically acclaimed films made in Bangladesh; several of them feature Anwar's signature cinematography -- Shurjo Dighal Bari, Emil-er Goenda Bahini, Puroshkar, Dahan, Hulia, Chitra Nadir Parey, Nadir Naam Madhumati, Laalshalu and Shyamol Chhaya for instance.

Anwar has not stopped working as a cinematographer. Based in Paris since 1993, he comes to Bangladesh frequently. His most recent project: Tanvir Mokammel's film Rabeya.

"I originally wanted to be an artist," says Anwar. In the early 1960s Anwar had eminent artist Debdas Chakrabarti as an art teacher at school. Anwar's creative flair was recognised at school. But fate in the form of a disapproving family intervened. Born into poverty, Anwar was the first in his family to complete the entrance exam (equivalent to SSC). Despite all limitations and difficulties, he stood fifth in the exam and Anwar had to give up his dream of becoming a painter. He studied architecture instead. "It was more like a compromise," says Anwar.

It seems that regret eventually made him what he is today. According to Anwar, "I took up photography as I couldn't pursue painting." He bought his first camera from a friend in college on instalment. An ICCR scholarship to study at the Film and Television Institute of India (FTII) in Pune however, pushed him more

Bangladeshi cinema.

Speaking on the gradual changes in the Bangladeshi movie industry, Anwar says, "In the post-Liberation War Bangladesh, there was no standard work procedure. There were random efforts -certain actors were talented and certain government officials were helpful. This haphazard system hasn't changed much."

A disgruntled Anwar blatantly continues, "Except for a few, peo-

"Except for a few, people who are involved in our movie industry are semi-literate/ illiterate -- both academically and intellectually. There are filmmakers who are SSC dropouts. How do you suppose the mass taste will develop?"

towards photography. "The first three years at FIII included still photography," he says.

In 1980, with Sheikh Niyamat Ali's film Shurjo Dighal Bari, Anwar stepped into the world of cinema. Anwar's innovative working technique behind the lens provided the film with a true to the core rural look. The film is considered a groundbreaking effort in

ple who are involved in our movie industry are semi-literate/ illiterate -- both academically and intellectually. There are filmmakers who are SSC dropouts. How do you suppose the mass taste will develop?

"There has to be laws and regulations that ensure that 'uneducated' people cannot work as technicians and filmmakers.



About young filmmakers, the noted cinematographer says, "There have been certain interesting efforts but unfortunately I haven't seen brilliance. Quite a few of these young filmmakers are film buffs and have good intentions, however I believe a good food critic is not necessarily a good

When it comes to filmmaking and cinematography, Anwar has more reasons to be irate. "Quality often takes time and patience. Consistency is also a key element. copies of ten best films and screen Shurjo Dighal Bari was shot in sixty days. Now we're given twenty instance, while shooting the film to fifteen dusks/ dawns. I was actors/actresses.

"We had to wait for an actress with negligible talent so that she could make some time for us; she was busy working in TV serials. There is no professionalism."

The renowned photographer is not happy with the photography scene in Bangladesh either. "How many photo exhibitions are held on national level in Bangladesh?" - Anwar asks. "There is no photography department at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Apparently 'Chobi Mela' is an international festival of photography. I haven't been invited to this festival as of

yet," he adds. Anwar's suggestions: "The Bangladesh embassies should take them around the world. There should be an institute for cinemadays to wrap things up. For tography and photography. A certain standard should also be Rabeya, I said that I needed seven ensured when it comes to filmmaking. Films that receive given two days. I could either say national awards should be no or make compromises. And I declared tax-free. Good films can sadly noticed that schedules of flourish if the government can filming are revolved around ensure proper distribution. TV channels should air them as well."

Despite the frustrations and unrequited hopes, Anwar has not given up. Perhaps it is time for the film industry to live up to these expectations.

# New variety show "Chandrabindu" on Channel i



Sharmin Lucky hosts the TV show.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

New variety show Chandrabindu will be aired on Channel i at 9:30 pm tonight. Nurul Alam Atique is the director of the programme.

The 26-episode programme will highlight some exceptional and interesting topics. Tonight's topic is "ghost". In our country, what does "ghost" mean to people of different societies and how is it treated in different art forms will be highlighted in the programme. Celebrities will share their impressions of ghosts in the programme.

Other subjects that will be highlighted in upcoming episodes are mother, death, crow, childhood, train and insanity. Sharmin Lucky hosts the programme.

## Centre for Asian Theatre wins Ibsen Scholarship

**CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT** 

Rawshan Jamil in Shurjo Dighal Bari.

Ibsen Scholarships for International Ibsen Projects 2008 was handed over to Centre for Asian Theatre (CAT) on September 1, at the National Theatre Stage in Oslo, Norway informed the theatre troupe members at a press conference held recently.

President of CAT, Professor Abdul Mannan; General Secretary Mosharraf Hossain and Executive Committee member Rokeya Rafiq Baby spoke at the press conference.

"Silence of the Lambs" director

Jonathan Demme jolted Venice

film critics Wednesday with a

stirring new family drama that

tightens the race for the festival's

His emotion-packed "Rachel

Getting Married" stars Anne

Hathaway as a recovering drug

addict who shakes up her sister's

wedding with an overdose of

honesty about their dysfunctional

to play such a troubled character,

such a tortured character, a char-

acter so consumed with dark-

ness," Hathaway told a news

those ways. I just thought she was

life. And she is honest, fiercely,

painfully, impolitely honest,"

"But I never saw her in any of

"People ask me what it was like

AFP, Venice

Golden Lion prize.

conference.

Hathaway added.

Theatre of USA, Writers Projects in Afghanistan and herStay of Norway received the scholar-

Ministry of Culture of Norway provides scholarships for international Ibsen projects to a person or institution that works to uphold the spirit of Ibsen. The projects do not necessarily have to be plays by Ibsen or translations, nor do they have to refer directly to Ibsen.

CAT has produced several plays by Ibsen such as Ghosts, Wild Duck, A Doll's House, Peer Besides the Bangladeshi Gynt and Brand. Moreover, it has troupe, The Commonwealth produced Resurrection, based on

Ibsen's life and works, written by Kamaluddin Nilu.

As part of the scholarship, CAT is currently planning to produce The Lady from the Sea. As per an agreement, Norwegian director Unn-Magritt Nordseth and Dramatic Advisor Ragnhild Mærli will come Dhaka to direct the play, which will be premiered in

CAT wishes to establish a leading international Ibsen centre in Asia, and therefore needs to develop and educate their staff in several of the theatrical professions.

Jonathan Demme jolts Venice film fest with family drama



(From left) Rokeya Rafiq Baby, Professor Abdul Mannan and Mosharraf Hossain at the press conference.

## Jolie posters not "Wanted" in UK, watchdog rules

REUTERS, London

Angelina Jolie might ooze Hollywood glamour, but if she's armed and looking dangerous, the actress is not welcome in Britain. Britain's media watchdog, the Advertising Stan-

dards Authority (ASA), has banned two posters of Jolie promoting the film "Wanted" after upholding complaints that the images of the gun-toting actress glamorised the use of guns and violence. One poster showed the actress crouching and hold-

ing a gun pointing upward while the other showed her lying on her back across a car's hood, brandishing guns. The ASA said it had received 17 complaints from people who thought the ads were irresponsible

because they glorify and glamorise gun crime at a time when there is increasing public concern in Britain

Some also complained that the posters for the hightech action thriller co-starring James McAvoy and Morgan Freeman were unsuitable to be seen by chil-"We considered, that because the ads featured a

glamorous actress, action poses, several images of or related to guns and aspirational text, they could be seen to glamorise the use of guns and violence," the ASA said in an online ruling. The film's maker, Universal Pictures, defended the

reflected the film's comic-book roots and providing examples of other ads they believed were more graphic and less stylised than their posters. Universal Pictures also said that the posters were seemed to come a bit late.

posters, saying the style of the advertisements

not placed near schools and appeared in the London Underground system, which does not have a high proportion of children.

But the ASA ruling, handed down Wednesday, therewere no plans for their future use.



Universal, owned by General Electric Co, said the posters for the film, which was released in Britain and the United States in June, were no longer being displayed, and

Anne Hathaway (left) and co-actors in Rachel Getting Married.

a girl struggling to live an honest of a home video. "My documentary work really came into play in a big way,"

Demme said. With the action packed into a wedding weekend at a sprawling much as possible like a home family home, the film, which also stars Debra Winger as the sisters' truth, (to) enhance the sense of mother, intentionally has the feel

Demme, who won an Oscar for "Silence of the Lambs" in 1991.

Asked about the multi-cultural aspect of the film -- Rachel (Rose-The idea was "to make it feel as mary Dewitt) is white, Sidney (Tunde Adebimpe) is black, and movie ... (with) the implication of the bride and bridesmaids wear saris -- Demme said it reflected involvement for the viewer," said "the America that I feel very deeply connected to."

"To me this group is normal," he said, noting that he initially offered the part of Sidney to Paul Thomas Anderson ("There Will Be

Blood"). diverse group of people ... That's the America I love. I saw that America recently last week at (US Democratic candidate for president) Barack Obama's induction,"

Demme said. "Rachel Getting Married" screened as this year's 65th Mostra faced biting criticism for a lack of compelling movies since it opened August 27. The Italian daily La defended the "very good level" of Repubblica on Wednesday fretted that the world's oldest film festival

has become "so tired." Schroeder's American-style thriller set in Japan, "Inju, the Beast in the Shadow" and Mexican-born US director Guillermo Arriaga's drama "The Burning

expectations. But on Tuesday, Ethiopia's Haile Gerima got high marks for "Teza,"

intellectual returns to his home village under Haile Mariam Mengistu's brutal 1970s-'80s regime after studying medicine in

Two Japanese films have also "It still would have been a stood out -- Takeshi Kitano's whimsical "Achilles and the Tortoise" and Hayao Miyazaki's latest animated children's fantasy

"Ponyo on the Cliff by the Sea." Festival director Marco Mueller on Tuesday dismissed growing criticism of this year's line-up -described by the Guardian film critic Andrew Pulver as "plain porridge without sugar" -- and

the selection. "Why are you talking about last week's films, instead of those that French director Barbet are screening now?" Mueller asked in an interview, adding that the Italian press is harsher than the foreign critics. "And you haven't read yesterday's and today's dailies," he said.

Plain" in particular fell short of Still to come among the 21 films vying for the prestigious Golden Lion are Kathryn Bigelow's "The Hurt Locker" and Darren in which an idealistic Ethiopian Aronotsky's "The Wrestler."