

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Solo Art Exhibition

Abdur Razzaque Retrospective
Title: Rhythms of Figures, Forms and Nature
Venue: Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts, H 275/F, Rd 27 (old), Dhanmondi
Date: October 10-29
Time: 12pm-8pm
Inauguration: October 10 at 6pm



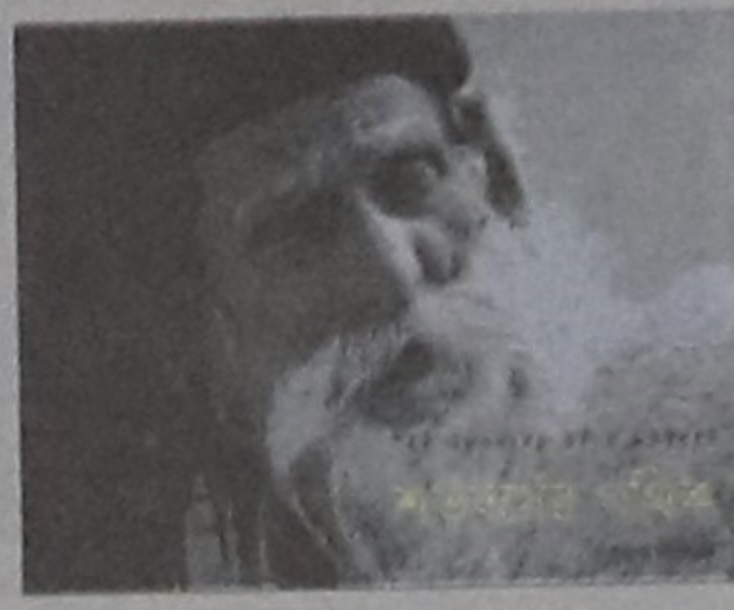
Film Screening

Alexander Kluge Retrospective (Part 1)
Organiser: Zahir Raihan Film Society
Venue: Goethe-Institute Bangladesh, H 10, Rd 9, Dhanmondi
Date: October 12-14
Time: 2:30pm onwards



Solo Photography Exhibition

Title: The Journey of a Legend
Photographer: Shahadat Parvez
Venue: Zainul Gallery-1, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: October 10-16
Time: 12pm-7pm
Inauguration: October 10 at 4pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: ACCU Asia-Pacific ESD Photo Exhibition
Organiser: Asia-Pacific Cultural Centre for UNESCO
Venue: Exhibition Hall, National Museum, Shahbag
Date: October 11-17



Shaheed Shadhan Music College: Upholding the dreams of a freedom fighter

AHMED HUMAYUN KABIR, Pabna

'Shaheed Shadhan Music College', Pabna is an institution honouring the memories of martyred singer Golam Sarwar Khan Shadhan. Shadhan was an acclaimed local artist in the 1960s and '70s who actively took part in the Liberation War and embraced martyrdom on September 10, 1971. Music enthusiasts of the area founded a music college in 1972 and the institution was named after Shadhan in his honour.

Over the decades the music college has established itself as one of the leading institutions of its kind, moulding aspiring local artists. However, the college did have its share of predicaments. The authorities were forced to close the college after 1975 and it remained closed for over 23 years. The college was back in session in 1999.

According to locals, Golam Sarwar Shadhan attained recognition in the *gano sangeet* genre. In 1969 Shadhan became champion at a music competition at Pabna Edward College. Not only a talented singer, Shadhan was a brilliant student too. In 1970, Shadhan enrolled in Rajshahi University.

Shadhan was invited to sing on 'Shadin Bangla Betar Kendra' during the Liberation War but he declined as he joined the war as a freedom fighter. According to fellow freedom fighters, Shadhan often sang in leisure in between



Shaheed Shadhan Music College in Pabna.



A class session.

combats, to keep up their morale. Shadhan along with his compatriots took shelter in a village, Nazirganj, under Sujanagar

revealed their position to the occupying forces. Shadhan and other freedom fighters tried to defend the village but were caught off guard. Shadhan was taken to the Nagarbari camp in the district. After four days of inhuman torture, Shadhan was killed and his corpse was left in the Jamuna River.

According to the college sources, Abdur Rob, Mohammed Nasim (former home minister) and other individuals took the initiative to establish the music college to keep Shadhan's dream alive. Professor Abdul Gani was the founder principal. The college opened on September 10, 1972. The then minister, Captain M. Mansur Ali inaugurated the college formally, sources added.

Abdul Matin Khan became the principal of the college in 2003. Over 100 students are currently studying at the college, official sources said. However, problems still remain. There are not enough classrooms. Just three rooms were constructed by the local arrangement.

Currently the college has 11 teachers. The shortage of teachers is one of the major problems at the college.

'Shaheed Shadhan dreamt of a thriving cultural scene in Pabna and embraced martyrdom for the nation. He is no more today but his dream remains alive through this college,' said Fulio Renu Roy, a teacher of Shaheed Shadhan Music College. Roy is an enlisted artiste of Bangladesh Betar and TV.

Tête-à-tête

Richi on the semblance between reality and TV plays

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Richi Solaiman embarked on her acting career in the much-acclaimed mini-series *Iti Amar Bon* in 1992. Over the years she has become a familiar face on TV and has won accolades for her moving performances in several plays and serials. Another identity of Richi that might be unfamiliar to the audience is that she is trained in *kathak*.

Speaking on how she ended up being an actress Richi says 'I used to dance in BTV programmes and was rehearsing for a show to be aired. Mustafizur Rahman saw me practice. I was seven at that time. He asked me if I'd like to act in his mini series *Iti Amar Bon*.' While the play was a raging success, Richi did not continue with acting. She went back to her first love -- dancing.

Eventually however, Richi started getting more inclined towards acting and after her first adult role in Begum Mumtaz Hossain's *Bela Obela*. Acting, sort of became an addiction. Unlike many new actresses whose fame get to their heads, Richi had a balanced perspective. When her performances were appreciated, it inspired her to



do better instead of just basking in the glory.

Being a public personality is not all that simple, admits this BBA graduate. While there is generally the fun of fanfare and recognition there are tensions as well. Richi, 'When I go and hang out with my friends, I can't laugh out as loud as them or do simple things the way they can. I have an image to maintain and hence

there is always a certain amount of self control.'

This intelligent Aquarian has strong views about the Indian channels being aired in Bangladesh. Richi requests her fellow countrymen to pick Bangladeshi channels over the Indian ones. She also requests the government to reduce the number of Indian channels being aired in our country.

'Indian serials are unrealistic

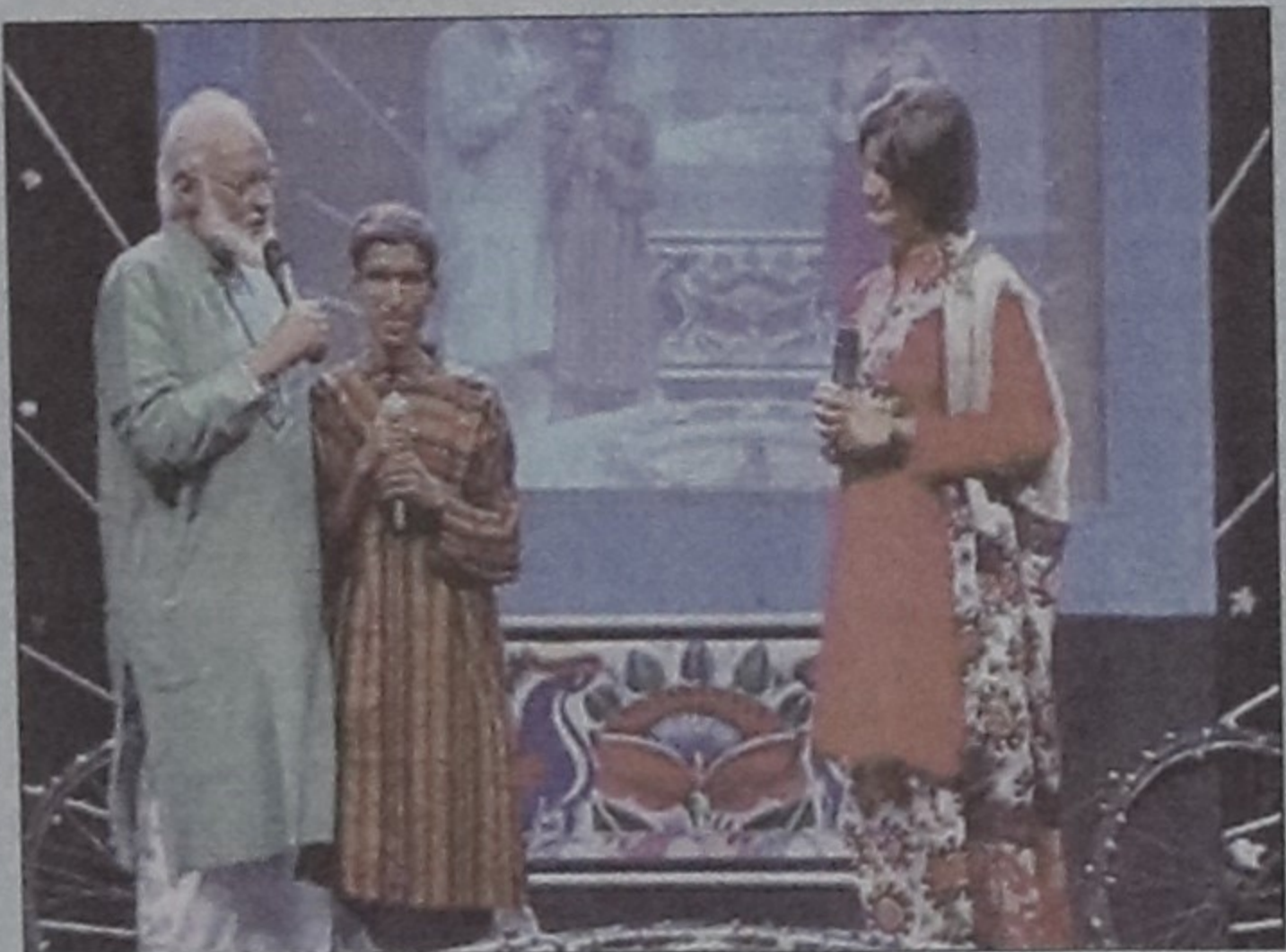
and hardly have a message. Generally they are about some rich families, glamour and glitz. It is a dream world, which is more of a farce. More than half of India's population still live in the villages just like ours. Is that ever portrayed in their soaps? While entertainment can be light hearted, it should not be totally delusional; some semblance of reality must be there,' she concludes.

A special episode of "Magic Tin Chakar Taroka"

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Tin Chakar Gaan, a special episode of the talent hunt *Magic Tin Chakar Taroka*, will be aired on ATN Bangla tonight at 8:45pm. The unique music competition provides rickshaw-wallahs and auto-rickshaw drivers with a platform where they can demonstrate their singing skills. The show started from June 9 this year.

On tonight's episode, Anwar Hossain, Shohag Hossain, Abdur Rahman Khokon, Hamidul Islam, Feroz and Zia will perform some popular *adhunik* songs. Eminent artiste Mustafa Zaman Abbasi and Abdul Jabbar will attend the show as special guests. Munni Saha, who has played a key role to promote the talent hunt, will host tonight's episode directed by Mokaddem Babu. The talent hunt was initially organised by a Mirpur-based social organisation called 'Shishir Bindu'.



Mustafa Zaman Abbasi (left) with Munni Saha (right) and a contestant on the show.

The final round of the show will be aired soon. Abdur Rahman Khokon, Mokhesur Rahman and Omar Ali have qualified to participate in the final round. The winner will be selected by SMS votes from the audience and will receive Tk one lakh. The winner will also get an opportunity to have a solo album released.

Karishma back after a hiatus

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Karishma Kapoor stages a comeback on the small screen after a hiatus of five years and she is keyed up for the occasion.

She is one of the three judges -- the others are eminent choreographer Farah Khan and actor Arjun Rampal -- on a reality show *Nach Baliye*, which went on air from October 10 on Star Plus.

Karishma's previous appearance on TV was her playing the title in fiction-serial *Karishma: The Miracles of Destiny* on Sahara television in 2003.

It has been two years since her

last movie *Mere Jeevan Saathi* and her participation in the reality show, say sources. The actress is aimed at testing the waters for a possible return on the big screen and her acceptance level. Apart from *Mere Jeevan Saathi*, the actress is also one of the several Bollywood stars who took part in a dance number in Shah Rukh Khan-starrer *Om Shanti Om*.

No, "return" is not the word Karishma cares about. "I needed a break...I had been working since the age of 15," she said in an interviewer.

However, she is yet to firm up any film for a comeback and this could include a project, which

might see Karishma along with her sister Kareena on the big screen, sources said. The reason for Karishma choosing to return to TV is that first of all it's a dance show. The vivacious actress loves to dance and is a good dancer in her own right. She also feels that the difference between TV and big screen has narrowed. Karishma respects TV actors who, unlike their counterparts in the cinema, work without a break.

Sabbas Joseph, Director of Wizcraft which is producing *Nach Baliye*, said Karishma has been a successful dancing star and she was quite at home with the reality show.



Buzz

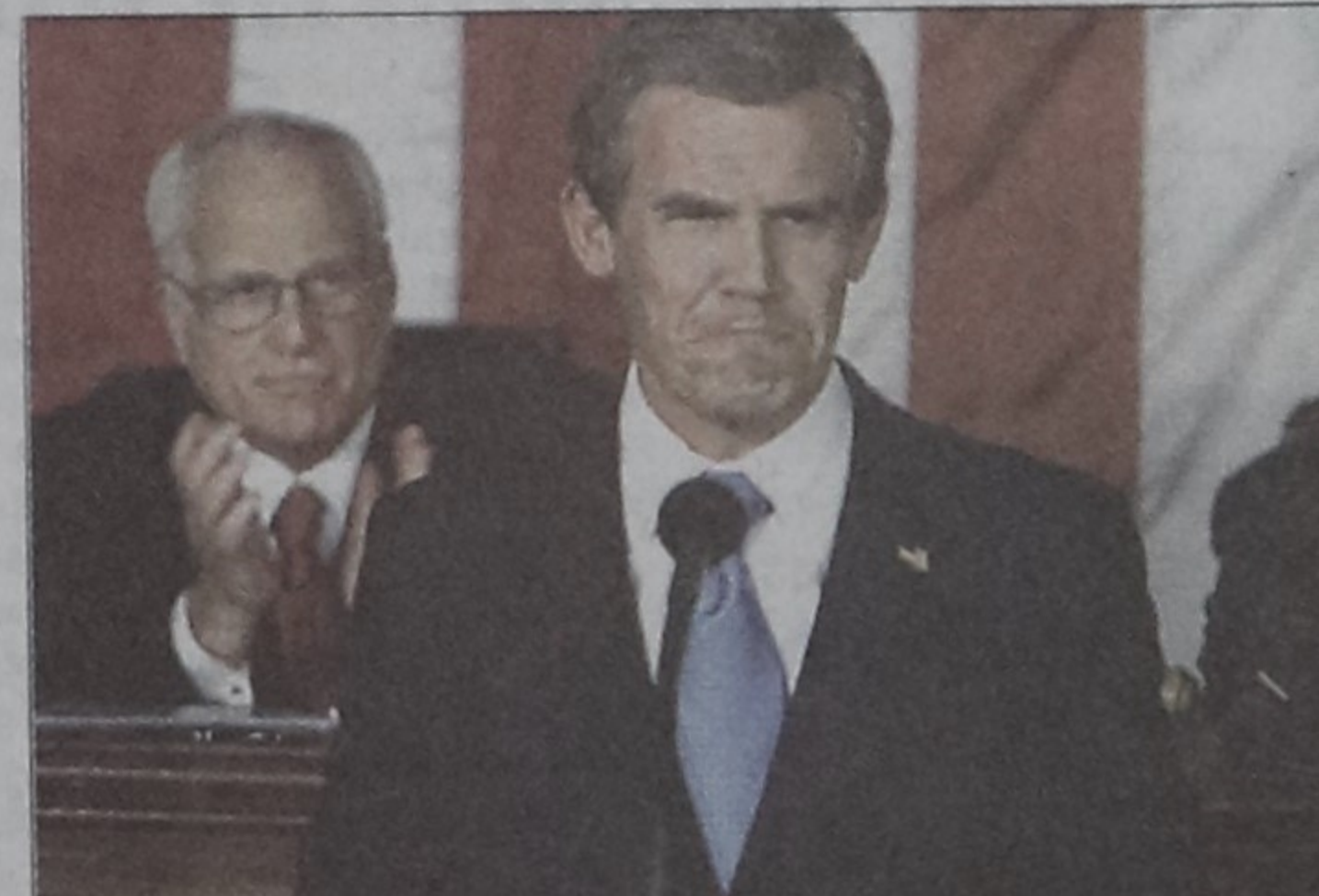
"W.": Throwing incaution to the wind, Stone paints Bush

Imagine these fantastical sequences from "W." the Oliver Stone portrayal of President George W. Bush that opens this week: The president is not alone with his dogs when he chokes on a pretzel and tumbles from the sofa; Saddam Hussein is in the White House family quarters with him. Later Bush flies over Baghdad on a magic carpet as the bombs rain down. And finally Hussein returns for another cameo, this time to shout insults at the president and his father.

These depictions would hardly be a reach for a director who is fond of monkeying with history. In "JFK" Stone suggested that President John F. Kennedy was assassinated by a cabal of gay anti-Communists. In "Nixon" he made that president so epically loathsome that even his Irish setter turned on him.

But "W." contains no airborne Bush; Stone cut the scene. And the pretzel incident has no Iraqi dictator, only the two first dogs, Barney and Spot.

"It was wacky stuff that at the end of the day took us out of the movie," Stone said in a recent interview. "We wanted to focus on the mind-set of this man. We don't change anything in his true story. Don't have to, because it's a great story. Dickens would do it. Mark Twain would write a great book. This guy who is basically a bum becomes president of the United



Josh Brolin as President Bush, with Richard Dreyfuss, background, as Dick Cheney, in Oliver Stone's "W."

States."

The surprise about "W." is that its left-wing creator made a movie that is not so much operatic or hysterical as utterly plausible.

Yes, there are soapy oversimplifications and embellishments (and some hallucinatory camera work involving baseball stadiums and showdowns in the Oval Office) that Bush loyalists will seize on as reprehensible distortions.

But all in all, the straightforwardness of "W." suggests that Stone set out to make a critical biography but was somehow

spooked. The director who has built a career on vowing to unearth hidden truths made a movie that feels more familiar than revelatory.

Stone retreats to the most familiar, widely accepted aspects of Bush's biography, gliding through the stations of the Bush cross that pop up in countless books and articles, from his fraternity hazing to his mano-a-mano fight with his father to his struggle with alcohol and his road to religious redemption to his decision to invade Iraq.

So faithful is this rendering that a scene of Governor Bush behind his imposing desk in Austin, Texas, stirred a reporter's memories of what it was like to interview Bush in that very setting nearly a decade ago. The Bush then, with his boots on the desk, his playful sparring with aides and his conversation sprinkled with the eager invocation of "God almighty," was uncannily similar to the one played by Josh Brolin.

Stone has never succeeded at divorcing his powerful point of view from his filmmaking, and he readily acknowledges that he hopes his \$25 million movie -- to be released less than three weeks before the presidential election -- will somehow help Barack Obama, though he is not sure how.

Stone's distaste for the president rears itself even when he is reminded that they are both 62 and followed in their fathers' footsteps by enrolling at Yale. "I got A's," he said. "He was a C student, and I think you cannot overlook that. I don't think he's a fundamentally educated man." (He neglected to note that he, not Bush, was a Yale dropout.)

Despite Stone's politics, there is room for some nuance in his portrayal of Bush. A lunch with Vice President Dick Cheney (Richard Dreyfuss) starts off with the makings of a Stone mockery: Bush seems the impatient simpleton who does not want to bother reading a three-page memo about authorising "enhanced interrogation tech-

niques" of detainees. "Only three pages -- good!" he says. But Bush makes clear he is no stooge.

"Bush knows that Cheney is trying to play him," Stone says. "He's not stupid."

Bush family dynamics are so oversimplified that at every turn Bush's father (James Cromwell) seems to be wagging his finger at his son for besmirching the family name. Stone would have the audience believe that Bush ran for governor of Texas, and then president, only to fix Daddy's mistake of not taking out Saddam Hussein once and for all -- and to show his parents that their preference for his brother Jeb was misplaced. Still, the Oedipal tensions are not a complete concoction; George and Barbara Bush hardly concealed their amazement that George W., the Bush black sheep, became a governor before Jeb.

Some will appreciate that Stone has abandoned his polarizing, facts-be-damned tangents for a bit of lightness. Larry King, for one, assured his viewers the other night that audiences of all political persuasions would like "W." That's just the endorsement studio chiefs love to hear.

But it's a departure for a director who has always been a provocateur who prides himself on creating movies "that make you think."

Source: Internet

DVD of "House Full" launched



Mustafa Kamal Syed (centre), Anisul Haque (3-left), Abul Hayat (2-left) and others at the DVD launch.

DVD of the popular drama serial *House Full*, aired on ntv, was launched by G-series on October 11, said a press release.

Mustafa Kamal Syed, programme head of ntv; writer-journalist Anisul Haque; Najmul Haque Bhuiyan Khaled, proprietor G-Series, Ali Fida Ekram Tojo,

director, G-Series; Redwan Rony and Iftekhar Ahmed Fahmi, the director duo of the serial were present at the DVD launch. Rony and Fahmi have also jointly written the script.

A one-minute silence was observed in memory of the recently deceased cameraman

Subroto Ripon.

Two DVDs were released, each featuring ten episodes of the serial. The cast of the serial includes Abul Hayat, Mosharraf Karim, Hasan Masud, Sumayya Shimu, Mithila, Hillool, Sohail Khan, Sharmin Sheela and others.