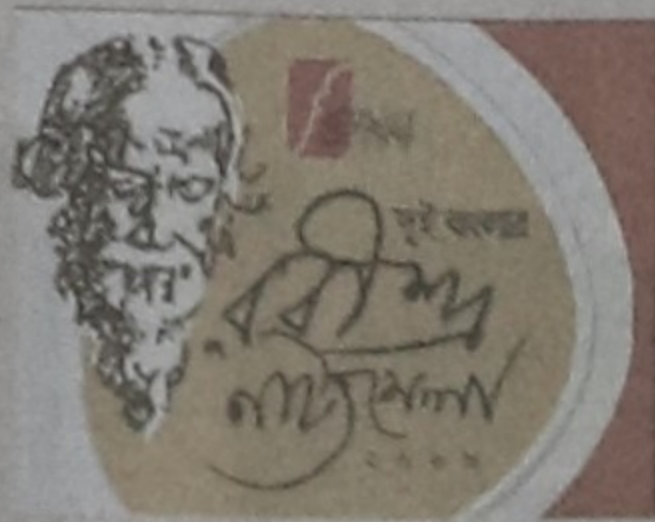


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Rabindra Theatre Festival

Organiser: Pranganey Mor
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 1-8
May 4 at 6pm
Play: Shyama Prem
Troupe: Pranganey Mor



Jatiyo Rabindra Sangeet Utshab

Organiser: Bangladesh Rabindra Sangeet Sangstha
Venue: Shawkat Osman Auditorium, Central Public Library
Date: May 5-9
Inauguration at 6:30pm



Mimodrama

Play: Jadur Pradip
Troupe: Swapnadal
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, BSA
Date: May 6
Time: 7pm



Clay Art Exhibition

Title: Clay Art by Harappa
Organiser: Harappa
Venue: Drik Gallery, H58, Rd 15A(new), Dhanmondi
Date: May 2-8
Time: 3-8pm
Inauguration on May 1 at 5pm



Lyrics are tangible reflections of emotions -- Gazi Mazharul Anwar

SADYA AFREEN MALICK

It was one of those soft rain-dappled mornings, as we listened, engrossed to the eminent lyricist, film director and producer Gazi Mazharul Anwar at our Daily Star office. Clad in his typical white panjabi, Gazi talked informally on his illustrious career in the media.

"I never thought that I would be involved with the media. I was in my third year as a medical student when I had the urge to write lyrics for films. My father was shocked! It took him a while to come around. I think my greatest compliment came a few years later, when receiving the prestigious Ekushey Padak on my behalf, my father said, 'You've proved your worth, now I will die a very content man,'" says Gazi. Gazi later went on to receive other highly prestigious National Awards such as the Shadhinata Padak and numerous National Film Awards.

Gazi is amongst the most prolific of lyricists in our country. Having entered filmdom in the '60s, he has so far penned an astounding number of 21,000 songs, "Perhaps the highest number of songs written by an individual in the subcontinent," he says. His countless hit songs include *Joy Bangla Banglar Joi*, *Ekbaar Jetey De Na Amar*, *Akasher Hatey Achey Ekraash Neel*, *Achen Amaar Mokhtar Achen Amaar Barrister*, *Mago Ma Ogo Ma* and many more.

He recalls an interesting anecdote on his prolific ability to produce winning songs while working with acclaimed director Zahir Raihan. "Zahir was far more advanced than his peers in his ideas. In those days of black and white films, he shot films such as *Sangam* and *Bahana* in colour. When directing *Dui Bhai* in the late 60s, he wanted to complete it in only 17 days! Accordingly, Zahir requested me to prepare seven songs within two days. He knew it was a challenge, but he asked me to try anyway. I accepted the challenge and imagine his total surprise when I completed writing the lyrics not within two days, but within three



Zahir Raihan requested me to prepare seven songs within two days. He knew it was a challenge, but he asked me to try anyway.

hours!" says Gazi.

Across the border, eminent lyricist Gouri Proshonno Majumdar of India complimented Gazi highly. A particular folk-based song *Tumi ar ekbaar ashiya jao morey kandaiya*, had left a strong impression on him. Other critics have been quoted as saying that they would often wake up in the morning and retire at night listening to Gazi's songs.

Lyrics are the tangible reflection of moods and emotions. However, "In our country the lyricists become a forgotten chapter when a song becomes a classic," notes Gazi.

A nostalgic Gazi humbly recalls the golden age of music that made it all possible. His contemporaries were Dr. Md Muniruzzaman, Professor Abu Hena Mustafa Kamal and

Masud Karim among others. Eminent composers Abdul Ahad, Subol Das, Sattya Shaha, Khondokar Nurul Alam, Altaf Mahmud, Alauddin Ali, Anwar Pervez composed music for his songs, he added. In such a star-studded company, creating timeless music was simply an inevitable extension of their genius.

Music though, was not limited to only the enlightened circles. "Our culture is very rich and undoubtedly music has always been at the forefront. As a child I remember even vendors would sell records of eminent singers such as Kamala Jharia and others. Music is something we hold very dear to our heart. However, with the change of tide everything is becoming mechanical. Now music is multi-dimensional. Artists now are less passionate about any

particular song since songs are prepared hastily. Music and dance have joined hands, which often results in vulgarity and are driving away the true listeners," he continues.

"Film songs are situational," adds the accomplished lyricist. "It is a combined effort of the lyricists, music composers, artists, musicians and the recordists. We would spend hours together with the music composers and the artists would sit for regular rehearsals before a song was created.

"However, due to the invasion of satellite culture, there has been a drastic downward trend in films. Music and dance in films have become secondary during the '80s. They are used merely as a visual treat (some would say abuse) rather than creating a tasteful piece. During the '90s it continued to worsen and now we are witnessing an all time slump."

Gazi asserts that a competitive market necessitates offering incentives for quality films. "If films are considered an industry (since they pay regular taxes and employ thousands of people and so on), why should they not be given the same incentives as in any other industry?" he asks.

"Without government support and reduction of service charges such as print processing that amounts to Taka 10-15 lakh, our filmdom is bound to lag behind. This is a big setback and would encourage encroachment of foreign films that can beat us out of the market through lower prices," says Gazi.

Gazi, has so far produced about 32 films. "Government funding or subsidies should be based on the quality of the script and should be available to talented newcomers as well as the renowned filmmakers," he adds.

Gazi says that Film Development Corporation (FDC) has seen around 31 directors in the last three decades and has mostly been headed by people from the administrative background. "What FDC needs is creative people at the helm; only then can our country witness the revival of what was once a creative, booming industry."

Pran-er Khela at Bengal Shilpalaya



Yasmin Mushtari presenting Nazrul Sangeet.

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Bengal Foundation has been promoting traditional Bangla songs over the last two decades. A musical soiree, titled "Pran-er Khela," is a regular monthly feature at the Bengal Shilpalaya in Dhanmondi. Featuring seasoned and emerging artistes, performing 'Adhunik' folk and songs of Tagore, Nazrul, Atulprasad, D.L. Roy, Rajnikant and more, this programme has become quite popular in the city. Noted Nazrul singer Yasmin Mushtari and emerging Rabindra Sangeet artiste Azizur Rahman Tuhin performed at this month's instalment of the soiree on May 2 at Bengal Shilpalaya.

Tuhin began his performance with the Rabindra Sangeet, "Shudha shagor tirey." One after another, the artiste sang "Amar priyar chhaya," "Megher koley rodh heshechhey," "Chhinno patar shajai tarani," "Megher porey megh jomechhey," "Prakhor tapan taapey" and "Tumi robeynirobey."

Mushtari sang both familiar and not often performed Nazrul classics including, "Arunkanti ke go jogi bhikhari," "Poran priyo," "Roshghono shyam," "Sha(n)jher pakhira phirilo kulaye," "Sur-e-o banir mala diye" and "Harano hiyar nikunjo pathay." Bengal Foundation released an album of Nazrul Sangeet by Mushtari that received a positive response.

Musicians providing 'sangat' with the artistes were: Sunil Kumar Sarkar on the keyboard, Pinu Sen Das and Sultan on 'tabla,' Almas Ali on the violin, Momtaz Begum on 'tanpura' and Nazmul Alam Jaru on percussion.



PHOTO COURTESY: BANGLARCHOKH.COM
Shurer Dhara held its second convocation at the Shawkat Osman Memorial Auditorium, Central Public Library on May 2. Director of Shurer Dhara and eminent Tagore artiste, Rezwana Chowdhury Bannya (centre) is seen with chief guest of the event, Justice Muhammad Habibur Rahman (to her right) and special guest Dr. Anisuzzaman (to her left). In all 37 students received certificates.

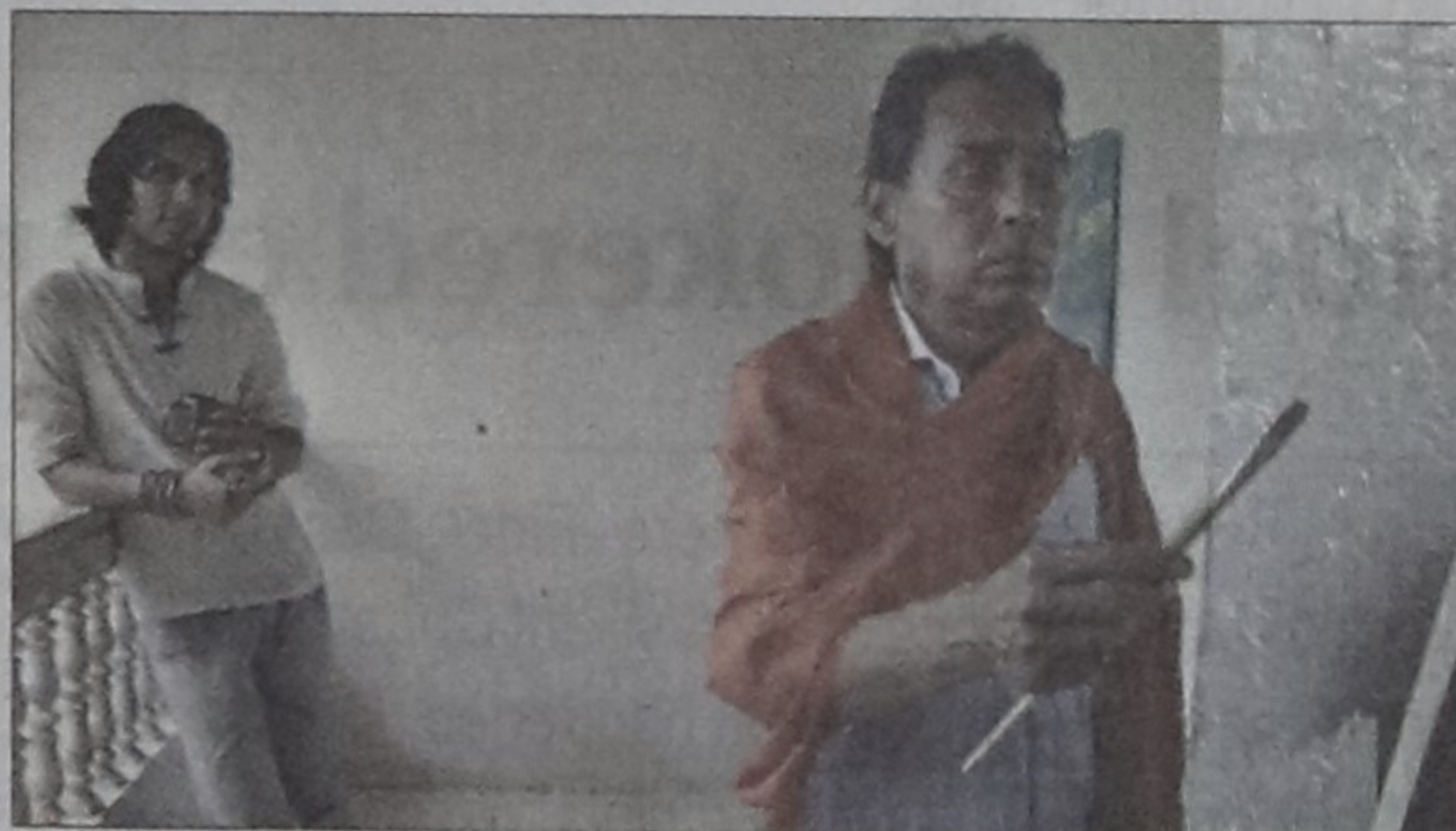
Palolik Mon on ntv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Drama serial "Palolik Mon" will be aired tonight on ntv at 9:45 pm. Written jointly by Selim Taher and Bipul Raihan, and directed by the latter, the serial is aired, same time every Monday and Thursday.

The plot centres on the rivalry between former friends Anis and Hasan. They were classmates at the university. Hasan was in love with Lily, who was also in the same class. After a turn of events Lily had to marry Anis. Even after many years, a bond remains between Hasan and Lily. Both Hasan and Anis are now affluent entrepreneurs. The serial moves forward amidst internal tension between the two families.

The cast includes Humayun Faridee, Mita Chowdhury and others.



Humayun Faridee (right) and co-actor in a scene from the serial.

A taste of Bangladesh

Thousands attend cultural programme at Bangladesh Embassy in DC

The Bangladesh Embassy in Washington DC recently organised a daylong cultural programme at the embassy premises, says a press release. The event, organised as a part of the Cultural Tourism, DC's annual celebration, was attended by a large number of guests from various parts of the U.S. Tourists from other countries also attended the event. Cultural Tourism, DC is a Washington-based non-profit organisation dedicated to showcasing cultural diversity through holding such events in collaboration with the embassies. This is the second consecutive year that this cultural programme was held.

M. Humayun Kabir, the Bangladeshi ambassador to the U.S. and his wife Rokeya Kabir welcomed the guests at the embassy. Prior to the cultural programme, the ambassador said that Bangladesh has an illustrious cultural heritage, which has been further enriched by numerous creative minds

of the country. Kabir said that the event at the embassy was an effort to showcase various aspects of Bangladeshi culture and connect with a wider audience in the U.S. as well as elsewhere.

The day's programme included a display of Bangladeshi handicrafts and other exportable items, and a show where expatriate Bangladeshi artistes performed. A video presentation on Bangladeshi culture and traditions was screened at the programme. Bangladesh's history, art and also contemporary achievements in various spheres, including women's empowerment and our country's contribution to peacekeeping under the UN were also highlighted in the video.

The guests were served traditional Bangladeshi cuisine. The event attracted about 3,500 people thanks to vigorous publicity and efforts by the embassy.

Terminator franchise turns grim

"Terminator Salvation," the fourth and latest film in the "Terminator" franchise, is the first to devote much of its screen time to a landscape in ruins.

It's set in 2018, 14 years after Judgment Day, that apocalyptic moment when Skynet, the artificial intelligence system created to defend the United States from attack, became self-aware and launched nuclear bombs to destroy the human race. Once again, John Connor is the film's hero (this time played by Christian Bale) as he tries to lead the resistance against the machines and the cyborg assassins that they have created called terminators. As he began developing the vision for the film, the director, McG ("Charlie's Angels," "We Are Marshall"), spoke to researchers at the California Institute of Technology and futurists to discuss what a world after nuclear destruction might look like. "I wanted it to feel dirty and credible," he said. "I was very influenced by 'Alien,' 'The Road Warrior' and 'Children of Men,' most particularly."

To sketch out the details of the landscape and solidify the film's look, McG hired the production designer Martin Laing. A long-time collaborator of James Cameron, the creator of



A sketch of a devastated Griffith Park in Los Angeles, drawn by Martin Laing for "Terminator Salvation."

the franchise and director of the first two films, Laing had a firm grasp of the Terminator world. "I used to pass the model of the Terminator, the T-800, that James Cameron has in his office on a daily basis," he said. "And on occasion, I had to glue the toe back on it because it always used to get kicked off."

For "Terminator Salvation," Laing sketched designs for 10 new models of Terminators and drafted paintings of the scenes that would eventually come to life on location in New Mexico.

Source: The New York Times

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