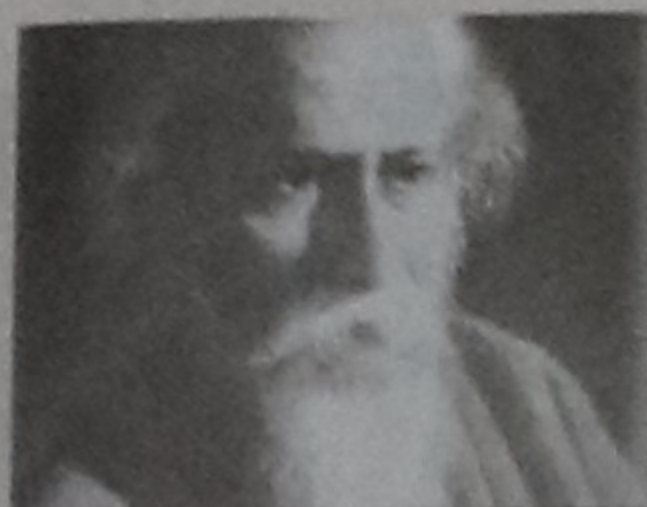


WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

Musical Soiree

Title: Jhanichhey
Srabono Dhara
Organiser: Nandan
Venue: Chhayanaut,
Dhanmondi
Date: July 24
Time: 7:15pm



Photography Exhibition

Title: Survivors
Artist: GMB Akash
Organiser: Alliance
Francaise of Dhaka
Venue: Alliance Francaise
of Dhaka, 26, Mirpur Road,
Dhanmondi
Date: August 14-27



Theatre

Play: Che's Cycle
Troupe: Bangla
Theatre
Venue: Studio Theatre
Hall, Shilpakala
Academy
Date: July 24
Time: 6:30pm



Musical Soiree

Organiser: Srijon
Venue: Poet Sufia
Kamal Auditorium,
National Museum
Date: July 25
Time: 7:05pm



Return of the natives

Mita and Al Mansur pair off again

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

It is widely acknowledged that when BTV was the sole TV channel in Bangladesh during the 1970's, the plays that would be broadcast once or twice a week were extremely popular and eagerly anticipated by viewers. Some would go so far as to maintain that TV drama in Bangladesh reached its apotheosis during the black and white decades of the 70's and 80's. Indeed, if anyone had predicted channel surfing through the welter of mega serials and ubiquity of commercial breaks in TV now, that individual would have been unceremoniously consigned and confined to a padded cell!

The plays that would be broadcast, and live when the TV studio was based in the old DIT bhaban, were directed by in-house directors. A small but immensely talented group of people was involved, many of whom also played a significant role in the post Liberation theatre renaissance. Although the concept



Mita and Al Mansur in a scene from the serial *Aladdin Cheraag*.

of celebrity among TV and stage actors did not exist, actors had dedicated but discriminating fans and some acquired the status of being household names. Most drama would be reviewed by the cultural correspondents of dailies and weeklies and subjected to constructive and

critical analyses. Audiences also tended to view certain principal actors as pairs or 'juts'. Actors paired off by producers or directors to play the hero and the heroine were a common enough phenomenon in popular cinema but television did not remain immune

for long. There were no casting agents in charge (there still aren't any) but astute directors would cast actors who were perceived to have the right chemistry between them. One such pairing-off was made for Al Mansur and Mita Chowdhury, both of whom played central roles in

BTV drama during the mid 70s. Notwithstanding the fact that both actors have claimed, independently of each other, that they have actually appeared on more occasions with other equally prominent co-actors, viewers from the 70's remember them as being the perfect match from that period.

Mita Chowdhury left Bangladesh in late 1978 to live in Guernsey, Channel Islands, and was absent from the TV screen for almost 30 years. Al Mansur too left the country to live in the US for many years. Coincidentally, both of them returned to Bangladesh three or four years ago and have been performing again. Happily for their loyal fans they have worked together since their return. Recently, they appeared in a 20-minute play based on Narendra Nath Mitra's short story, *Jajaati*. Viewers can now see them play a lovestruck couple in their golden years in a serial called *Aladdin Cheraag* which has been scripted by Al Mansur and being aired by Desh TV.

TV Watch

Michael Jackson's Moonwalker on Channel i

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

To pay tribute to the King of Pop, Michael Jackson, Channel i will air his only film "Moonwalker" at 2:30pm today. The film, also known as "Michael Jackson: Moonwalker," was released in 1988.

The film is a collection of short films about Jackson rather than one continuous narrative.

The film is named after the dance technique known as the moonwalk, which was one of his trademark moves. The name of the dance move was dubbed by the media; however, Jackson himself chose the title of the film.

The 93-minute film is jointly directed by Jerry Kramer and Jim Blashfield. Jackson played his own character. Jeff Adkins, Patrick Alan and Dante Basco are the other cast members of the film.



A scene from the film "Moonwalker".

TV play Eka Othoba Koyekjon on Ekushey TV

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

The first of the two-episode TV play "Eka Othoba Koyekjon" will be aired on Ekushey Television at 9:30pm tonight. The play is written and directed by noted actor duo Azad Abul Kalam and Afsana Mimi respectively.

The story of the play revolves around a couple-- Munia and Tuhin, who live in a tea garden. Tuhin devotes more time to the garden rather than his wife. Gradually a schism develops between the couple.

But the situation soon takes a u turn when one day, Tuhin's friend Shams come from the

city. The outspoken professional photographer Shams infuses a breath of fresh air in Munia's monotonous life. She begins to get drawn to Shams, which is frowned on by society. What will she do next? Will she pay heed to convention or follow her dreams?

The audience will give the answer, as the story of the second episode will be written after the SMS votes come in.

Sanjida Preeti plays the protagonist, Intekhab Dinar and rock star Jon (of the band Black) play the other lead roles. The play is produced by HSBC, as part of the organisation's new brand campaign.



Sanjida Preeti and Jon in the TV play.

Tête-à-tête

Anupoma Mukti: Chronicle of a promising singer

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Born in Dhaka, Anupoma Mukti, a graduate from Home Economics College, Dhaka, entered the world of music at the tender age of four. Encouraged by her family, she completed a certificate course in Nazrul Sangeet from BAFA and began special training at the Nazrul Institute in the proper notation of Nazrul songs.

Mukti mainly performs at stage shows and the suburbs of Dhaka. She is also centre stage at wedding ceremonies and *jalsas*. Recently she spoke to The Daily Star (TDS) on a number of issues:

TDS: Who are your gurus and what is your forte?

Mukti: My husband Sharif Alam Rajkumar first introduced me to classical music. Later I trained under Mangal Chandra Mandal and Sujit Mustafa. I began with Nazrul songs and classical music. I also love to render *adhunik* and Hindi songs.

TDS: You have done playback for a few films. Would you share your experiences with us?

Mukti: I first did playback for a film titled "Andhokare Chita" in 2003. That was a duet and my co-artist was Palash. Shawkat Ali Emon was the music director. In 2005, actress Suchanda made a film "Hajar Bochor Dhore," based on the much-

acclaimed novel by Zahir Raihan. I did a playback for that film. It was a duet with Subir Nandi. Eminent music directors Alauddin Ali and Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul were the composers of that song. I was awarded BACHASAS Chalachchitra Puroshkar (jointly given by Keya Cosmetics and Fantasy Kingdom) for that song.

TDS: You also worked in some mixed and asolo album. Tell us about that.

Mukti: My mixed albums are "Sundari," "Pasha" and "Maa," while my solo album is "Jhinuker Mukto." The lyrics, tune and composition were done by Amitava Shyam.

TDS: Gaye holud and marriage ceremonies would be incomplete without Hindi and fast paced adhunik songs. Why not more traditional songs?

Mukti: I am comfortable singing such songs but have to keep up with the demands of the audience.

TDS: Did you face any hurdles in your stage performances?

Mukti: I am very selective about my stage performances. Before I sign a contract, I set the timeframe for a performance, especially those at night. Thus I avert many hurdles.

TDS: What is your dream?

Mukti: I want to establish myself as a prominent singer in Bangladesh through some timeless songs.



Mukti mainly performs at stage shows in Dhaka.

Shafin and Prince in Dhrupodi Kahini on Rtv

CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

Popular band artiste Shafin Ahmed and lyricist-composer Prince Mahmud feature as guests on talk show 'Dhrupodi Kahini.' Rtv will telecast the programme at 6:45pm today.

Shafin Ahmed is the lead vocal of the popular band 'Miles'. He has composed several hit numbers such as "Protir raat-ee nirghum raat", "Aaj jonmodin tomar" and more.

Prince Mahmud is a noted composer and lyricist. He also has several songs to his credit: James featuring "Maa" and "Baba" and many more.

Fans can tune in to get the artists' perspectives on their climb to fame.

The programme is compiled, directed and anchored by Shanta Islam.



Shanta Islam (L) seen with tonight's guests.

New Bollywood releases

Bollywood films have an evergreen appeal. Here's a run up to the recent popular flicks that have been released recently.

Morning Walk

Three stars go to "Morning Walk" about an old couple (ably played by Anupam Kher and Sharmila Tagore) who encounter each other after decades. The old man discovers that he had a daughter from the woman he courted years back. According to film buffs, "Morning Walk" is the beautiful and heart tugging tale of two families different from one another, yet connected by a special bond.

Anupam Kher has been quoted as saying, "People are in need of love in all ages and this is a positive sign of



Sharmila Tagore and co actor in the film "Morning Walk."

growth and openmindedness in the younger generation to accept the old in love."

New York

Though a serious film "New York" seems to have a considerable fan following and has been rated with four stars by The Times of India. The film tells the story of three students in a fictional New York University whose lives are changed by 9/11. The film begins in New York begins in 1999 and ends in 2008.

The three central characters are played by John Abraham, Katrina Kaif and Nitin Mukesh. Irfan Khan plays a supporting role in the film.

Kabir Khan directs the film, which is produced by Yash Chopra under the banner of Yash Raj films.

Kambakkht Ishq

The film depicts the eternal battle of the sexes. Starring Akshay Kumar and Kareena Kapoor in the diametrically opposite characters, the duo are thrown together often. The supporting actors are Aftab Shivdasani and Anita Arora. The story zeroes in on the main characters' squabbles, scathing exchanges and how despite the odds they end up together. Those in the know, describe it as a film with "some action, glamour, love and a whole lot of catfights."

Directed by Sabbir Khan and produced by Sajid Nadiadwala, the film is a remake of a 2002 Tamil film. Interestingly the cameos are played by Sylvester Stallone, Denise Richards, Brandon Routh and Holly Valance who play themselves.