

## Boshonto Utshab or Valentine's Day?



MODELS: PRANTO AND MOU

PHOTO: MUMIT M.

A CORRESPONDENT

Spring, otherwise known as the 'season of love', is here. What makes it even more exciting is that Valentine's Day and Boshonto Utshob dovetail in the month of February. The comparison stops there. While Boshonto Utshab is an integral part of our culture and heritage, Valentine's Day is a concept imported from the West, resulting in what can only be termed a cultural collision. Consequently there are both positive and negative viewpoints about February 14. This phenomenon is especially true for our noted media personalities.

The Daily Star talked to some of the media veterans about the debate surrounding Valentine's Day.

Ferdous Waheed says, "If I go back in time, there are a lot of memories. But now, at this age, all those memories may sound like crazy stories. At the age of 25 to 35, there is a lot of enthusiasm for such a day, but now all that keenness is gone."

In sharp contrast, Abul Hayat who recently celebrated his 40th wedding anniversary, stopped by on his way home to pick up 40 roses for his lovely wife... "I do not believe that love needs a particular day. I love my wife everyday."

What does Aly Zaker have to say about it? "Love is one of the greatest feelings, it's not only for a day but for all the 365 days. I do not think that it should be for 'fun' as is wrongly portrayed. That's not love. There is a western mindset working; our values are somewhat dominated and controlled by them. You can say that the days like Father's Day, Children's Day and Lovers' Day (Valentine's Day) are just a mechanism to boost sales in the market. But that shouldn't be the case. I can't imagine loving my life-partner only one day of the year; my love for her is eternal."

What do the young stars have to say about this?

Actress/model Probha says, "I used to feel strongly about Valentine's Day, say when I was doing my HSC in 2006. The uncanny thing is that at that time, there was mostly a strike on this particular day. So in that way, although I wanted to, I could never really have that much fun. However, just the day before, on Pohela Falgun, I had loads of fun. I have this strong feeling that this year is going to be horrible! With no friends to hang out

with and maybe I will be busy shooting the entire day."

Singer Nancy says, "I do not think it's a part of our culture; may be enthusiastic teenagers observe it in a big way. However, they don't celebrate love. Girls don't make-up and fancy clothes and young men go out to stare at them -- this is not true love. For me everyday is for love and other emotions."

On this occasion when everyone is considering where to go and spend some special moments with their loved ones, all is not well for some celebrities.

Actress Farah Ruma says, "Although I celebrate every year, this year, my father is unwell and is in hospital. I just hope for the prayers of my fans on this Valentine's Day for my father whom I love the most."

And then we have rock star, Ayub Bachchu, taking a pro-Valentine's Day stand. "Valentine's Days is for lovers. They observe this day to cherish their loved ones." Bachchu and his band LRB will be performing in Kolkata today, sharing some special moments with his fans in the West Bengal city.

Dancer Shamim Ara Nipa says, "It feels good to have a celebration, but it should be treated differently to express love. However, through a celebration, people can find a new way to express themselves. Love is omnipotent."

In the words of RJ Kebria, "Love is for all times. It's in the form of many feelings and emotions. Even spending a troublesome time with your favourite person can be described as a moment of love."

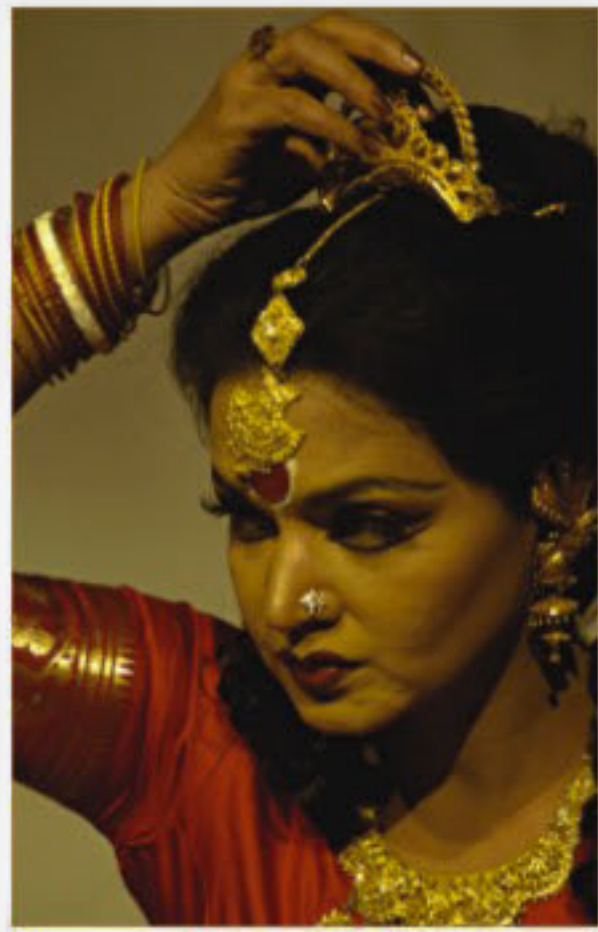
And what about spring and Boshonto Utshob? Almost everyone is excited; there is no debate on this score.

Ayub Bachchu: "Boshonto is not just a season, its a state of mind. Nature wears a new face, and people put on new clothes and embellishments. It's the magic of spring that prevails in nature and in the hearts of Bangladeshis."

Dancer Tamanna Rahman points out that Boshonto Utshab is one of the most widely celebrated festivals in Bengal. Tamanna is unequivocal about the irrelevance of Valentine's Day for her. As she asserts, "Like many others of my generation, I had no exposure to this celebration in my childhood and teens. Though this generation celebrates the day in a big way, I somehow cannot relate it to our culture."



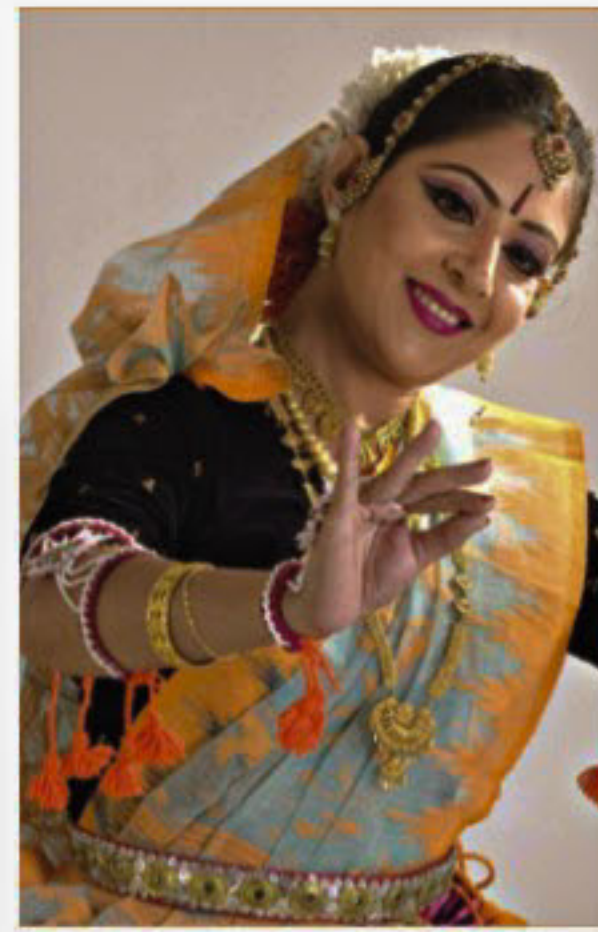
Aly Zaker



Shamim Ara Nipa



Abul Hayat



Tamanna Rahman



Ferdous Waheed



Probha



Ayub Bachchu



Nancy

## Anti-Valentine Playlist 2010

KARIM WAHEED

That Hallmark-pushed kitsch-fest is here again. Flowers, chocolate, candlelight dinners, mushy cards and even mushier messages galore... If PDA makes your cornea burn and you get nauseated by the barrage of Valentine's Day specials on TV, this anti-valentine playlist is for you.

These songs may not necessarily uplift your mood but consider this fellow SOVDs (single on Valentine's Day): the lovebirds may have their day, but you have the greatest/ most profound songs.

### "Go Your Own Way" by Fleetwood Mac

It was the first single (1976) to be released from Fleetwood Mac's hit album, "Rumours". Lindsey Buckingham wrote this song with regard to his bandmate Stevie Nicks, with whom he had just ended a romantic relationship. It describes their break-up, with the most obvious line being, "Packing up... is all you want to do." Nicks wanted Buckingham to take out the line, but he refused.

### "The Warning" by Eminem

No one expected Eminem to sit silently as Mariah Carey dressed up like Shady and mocked him in the "Obsessed" video. Eminem fired back at Carey on the diss song called "The Warning".

"I'm obsessed now? Oh gee, is that supposed to be me in the video with the goatee?" Eminem raps. "Shut...up before I put all them phone calls out you made to my house when you was wild n' out..." And that's one of the more sober lines in his three-and-a-half minute free flow of vitriol, which features Carey samples towards the latter third of the song. Prescribed for (a) jilted, misogynist ex or (b) recovering loveholic.

### "Obsessed" by Mariah Carey

As much as I'm allergic to Mariah Carey's octaves-spanning screeches, since Eminem's diss track made it on this list, I figured the diva also deserves a spot, or at least, her little number that instigated the rapper's diatribe does. Sample: "...All up in the blogs/ Saying we met at the bar/ When I don't even know who you are...Why you so obsessed with me (Boy I wanna know)...It's clear that you're

upset with me/ Finally found a girl that you couldn't impress..." In case you're curious, Mariah's history with Eminem goes back to 2001, when the two reportedly dated briefly.

### "Gravity" by Sara Bareilles

And now, on to a soothing indie track. Sara Bareilles achieved mainstream success in 2007 with the hit single "Love Song". If love (or more appropriately, a relationship that you know is not working out for you) can be compared to addiction, this song makes perfect sense. You want to let go, yet can't seem to sever all ties. Excerpts: "...Leave me be/ I don't wanna fall another moment into your gravity... But you're neither friend nor foe/ Though I can't seem to let you go/ The one thing that I still know is that you're keeping me down..."

### "An Army of Me" by Björk

Must be something in Icelandic water. How else do you explain Björk's refreshingly odd songs and even more eccentric music videos? When she went solo, Björk took interest in trip hop/electronica. This interest gave Björk impetus to create material like the storming "Army of Me". It can be an anthem for someone in a relationship who refuses to constantly bail the other party out, or someone out of a relationship who refuses to remain friends. Sample: "You're on your own now, we won't save you/ Your rescue-squad is too exhausted...And if you complain once more, you'll meet an army of me..."

### "Ekhanei Shukh Chhilo Ekdin" by Shayan

It is a stirring ode to lovers contemplating going separate ways. "I wrote this song when I was 16," says Shayan. "At that particular point of my life, marriages and relationships meeting premature ends had an overwhelming impact on me." Excerpts: "Aaj ei thotey nei shei tripti, tai obosheshey muktir chukhti/Tobu sheshbar tumi bhebey dekho, ekhanei shukh chhilo ekdin..."

## VALENTINE'S DAY SPECIALS

### "Dujoney" on Banglavisision

A CORRESPONDENT

Special play "Dujoney" will be aired on Banglavisision at 9:05pm. The play is directed by Kamol Chakma and written by Dewan Shamsur Rakib.

The play revolves around two individuals Rohan and Nodi. Rohan, a physical training teacher of a primary school, feels inadequate because of his profession. His profession, in fact, causes him to break up relationships several times. As a result, he decides to go to a matchmaker to find a bride. At the matchmaker's office, he

meets Nodi, the elder sister of one of his students.

When the matchmaker ask him his preferences for a bride, Rohan describes the characteristics of his dream girl, Nodi.

After a few days, the matchmaker informs him over the phone that his desired bride has been found. The matchmaker arranges for the two to meet at a restaurant. The story takes a twist, when Rohan finds that the prospective bride is not Nodi...

The cast includes Mahfuz Ahmed and Badhan. Cricketer Javed Omar Belim played a special role in the play.



### "Shada Mon Dhushor Prithibi" on Ekushey TV

A CORRESPONDENT

TV play "Shada Mon Dhushor Prithibi" will be aired on Ekushey Television at 7:50pm. The play is written by Ahsan Alamgir and directed jointly by Rishita Jahan and Saiful Islam.

The play circles around Orko and Rosario. Orko, along with his friend Anjan,

makes a visit to a little town. There they meet Rosario, a nun, at a church. Orko falls for her but cannot articulate his feelings. On his return to Dhaka, Orko rings up Rosario and tells her how he feels about her. Rosario rejects his advances. However, Orko's stubborn attitude makes Rosario rethink her stand. She soon faces a dilemma: Should she stick to her vows or return to the materialistic world along with Orko.

Sajal, Tisha, Ehsanul Haque Minu and Tanveer Tanu play the lead roles.

For TV details see page 2.

### "Bhasha Pelo Bhalobasha" on Rtv



A CORRESPONDENT

"Bhasha Pelo Bhalobasha", directed by Chayanika Chowdhury and written by Rumman Rashid Khan is a romantic play that features Nowsheen, Nova, Tutul and Emon.

The drama hinges on a couple Eva and Romel, (enacted by Nowsheen and Emon) that is rapidly drifting apart. Then Munnai, (played by Nova), enters Romel's life. In the belief that they are having an affair, Eva also flaunts another man to make her husband jealous. However, Eva has a secret to share about her illness. Do these characters achieve their goals or do they just get stranded on

lonely islands?

Actor Emon shared his experiences with us. "After a year, this is my first TV play," he said, going on to point out that "The scriptwriter is a good friend of mine and of course, the script was good. So I just had to do it."

"It was an amazing feeling as I was back with my old friends here. After a long time, I had fun working together with them."

Not just Emon, this TV play is said to be close to the hearts of all the others as well. Nowsheen's family is said to have been intensely moved by the touching story and her sensitive portrayal of her character.

"Bhasha Pelo Bhalobasha" will be aired on Valentine's Day on Rtv at 9:35 pm.

I'M NOT YOURS, YOU'RE NOT MINE.

BE MY ANTI VALENTINE



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**MICHAEL JACKSON**

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