

Sculpture exhibition on Liberation War



Bangabandhu's speech, songs of Swadhin Bangla Beter Kendra and patriotic songs are being aired in the background.

Aminul Haque Chowdhury Hiru, one of the organisers and president of the *mela* committee, told The Daily Star that he was only three-years-old at the time of the Liberation War. "As a child I heard the story of the Liberation War from my grandparents. The Pakistani army threw my grandfather into a tiger's cage but luckily he survived," he said.

He went on to add, "When I was growing up, some vested quarters gave a distorted version of the history of the Liberation War. That caused me immense pain. From that time I made it my mission to spread the real history of the Liberation War among the rural people." Describing the events that led to the *mela*, he said that the members of Bakunda Tarun Shangha, established contact with sculptor Nipendranath, a freedom fighter, who made the sculptures in five months.

Added attractions at the fair are puppet-shows, circus, stalls of handicraft and pottery items.

The sculptures highlight Liberation War, freedom fighters and iconic Bengali personalities.

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, Thakurgaon

A month-long sculpture exhibition on freedom fighters and the Liberation War is on at Bhogathgacchi village, 17 kms southwest of the district headquarters, under sadar upazila in Thakurgaon. People from the village are coming to the

exhibition in droves.

Acting President of district unit Awami League Advocate Mokbul Hossain Babu inaugurated the exhibition on April 17.

Several statues on display highlight the Liberation War. There is Bangabandhu's statue as he delivered his historic speech of March 7, 1971. Another sculpture captures the surrender of

General Niazi to General Jagjit Singh Aurora, Chief of the Allied Force, at the then Racecourse Ground in Dhaka. Alongside are depictions of battlefields with tanks and heavy arms of both sides and the bodies of Pakistani soldiers and martyred freedom fighters.

Other Bengali icons like Rabindranath, Nazrul and Lalou are also on display.

Folk Theatre Week



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

As part of the Folk Theatre Week, at Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, Mahtab Ali Sheikh and his troupe from the village Tarapur, Rajshahi district performed *Madari Pir-er Gaan*. The act, "Bibi Kushum-er Pala", was staged on April 28. Sheikh and his troupe have been performing *Madari Pir-er Gaan* in Rajshahi and adjacent districts for the last forty years.



If punctuality is a commendable trait, Mostofa Sarwar Farooki should be given full credit as he showed up at the DS Café 10 minutes before schedule (last Saturday). Minutes before the phone line got busy (for the next one hour) the Arts and Entertainment Desk put up a few questions to the acclaimed director.

The Daily Star (TDS): How did you get into films?

Farooki: I don't know -- there isn't any particular answer to that. I tried so many things in life -- to become a writer, a cricketer. Basically I wanted to impress a girl. As I didn't have great looks, illustrious background, or a heavy wallet, I had to explore other ways. After watching many films at film societies, I thought I could give filmmaking a shot. It was like from *prem* (love) to frame!

I started off with a 'duck' in the debut innings as my first video fiction got rejected by the preview committee of ETV. I thought this was the end of my affair with films and started to look into other options. At that point, I got a call from Farhad Mahmood, the MD of the channel, saying that he liked my 'rejected' work and bought it. So that's how it all started.

You would notice that my earliest works are quite unlike what I produce now; the former are much more theatrical, following a style that was popular then. To come out of that *gharana* was very important for me. But I didn't have the training to change my style overnight and join the wave of the world cinema which is much more subtle and realistic. It means I had to rely heavily on trial and error.

There is this line I used in my film "Bachelor": "I am a student of the World University of Mistakes." Mistake is my biggest teacher.

The line gets flooded with calls a minute after 1 pm.

Lenin from Baridhara: I wanted to be the first caller. Please tell me something about your new movie. And where do you live? Will it be possible to meet you?

Farooki: I am contemplating a film; probably going to start from July. I live pretty close to you -- in Baridhara, DOHS. You can e-mail me at privilegedkid@yahoo.com.

Arafat from Old Dhaka: I want to work in your films/ TV plays. How do I go about it?

Farooki: Can you peel a banana? I mean if you are sensible and intelligent enough, we can give it a shot. All you need to do is send details to the e-mail address mentioned above.

Hassan from Lalmonirhat: When do you plan to get married? Anyone in particular in mind? Why do you mostly portray life in the city? Is rural life absent in your works due to limitations?

Farooki: To answer your first question, I am yet to marry. No one particular in mind either. City life is what I have experienced first hand. You might expect to see one or two rural-themed works in the future. There is actually no limitation but just a difference in perception.

Isaafi from Dhanmondi: I really liked your film "Third Person Singular Number". Since I want to be a filmmaker, how do I get involved with 'Chhobial'?

Farooki: You definitely can, as aspiring filmmakers are greatly encouraged nowadays.

Shabnam from Dhaka: I am interested in acting. Observing your works, I think I will be able to pull it off.

Farooki: Why not? I can spot around 15 million actors and actresses in the country.

Arnob from Barisal: Why don't you make classic TV plays like "Ekannoborti", "69" and "420" any more?

Farooki: You see, family-oriented serials seem repetitive. I try not to bore my viewers. Innovation is the key now.

TDS: Why do you insist on using colloquial/street lingo in your plays/films?

Farooki: Time and again I have faced this argument. Those who find the use of informal/street lingo and different dialects of Bangla 'inappropriate' are clearly not thinking logically. A filmmaker's job is not to educate people in using formal Bangla. His job is to give the right language to the character depending on the situation. That can be standard/ formal Bangla or dialects from different part of Bangladesh. Every character speaking 'bookish' Bangla would be wrong detailing. It's like asking, "Why won't I put a *kuli*

(labourer) in a suit?" As a filmmaker it's not my job to preach or dictate what's proper or improper. My only responsibility is to present a credible depiction of the reality and the language used in my works is the reality.

Al-Amin from Dhaka: We notice that you emphasize on empowerment of women...

Farooki (smilingly): I give equal stress to both men and women's empowerment.

Shoab from Bonosri: I have seen you quite often at Aziz Super Market. I wanted to ask you for some pointers on how I can become a filmmaker.

Farooki: Did you say Aziz Market? You got me nostalgic! My advice would be to watch a lot of international films.

Shihab from Katasur: You have revolutionised TVC making in Bangladesh? Any new TV commercial by you coming out? When will the movie "I Hate My Mother" be released? Why are there so many low-budget films by Impress Telefilms?

Farooki: About TVCs, quite a few in the pipeline. The plot of "I hate my mother" was actually turned into "Third Person Singular Number". Low-budget? Well, I'm lucky enough to get a budget that's sufficient. My last film's budget was over one million. I am not sure what you meant. There have been radical changes in the field of filmmaking in Bangladesh.

Arefin from Moghbazar: We read a lot of negative things about you. What is your response to those?

Farooki: About negative news/remarks regarding me, all I can say is when someone's house of cards falls apart, he/she falls into despair.

Mehedi from Uttara: Feels great to talk to you. DS Café is a great new venture. I am involved in theatre and want to work with you.

Farooki: Yes, DS Café is doing a great job. Nothing is impossible. Just mail me at the given address.

Imran from Dhanmondi: I am 23 years old. I want to start making movies. How can I make it possible?

Farooki: You are only 23. And that is no challenge at all. Even if you were 53 I would have said 'Yes you can do it.' You are young and spirited; just get started. Watch a lot of movies. It would help you if you can first work as an assistant director as there is no film school in our country.



ON AIR

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

ATN BANGLA
11:05 BSB-Cambriyan Youth Parliament
03:15 Bangla Feature Film
05:00 Gram Gonjer Khabar
06:20 Amra Korbo Joy
08:00 Tatka National Dance Star
09:20 BBC BUZZ
12:00 Grameenphone Lead News

CHANNEL i
11:30 Special Programme
12:30 Muktiuddho Protidin
01:05 Tritomatray Apni
01:30 Musical Programme: Sa Re

11:30 Washington Barta
ETV
11:30 Shangkriti Shomachar
01:30 Bangla Feature Film
05:25 Shaplaho Jurey
05:45 Sports Plus
06:30 Spondon
07:50 Tomaar Oshim Dharaye
08:20 Dance Programme: Dhinaak Dhinaak Ta
RTV
12:02 Phono Live Studio Concert
02:03 Documentary
06:00 Protidin
06:30 Dhrupadi Kahini
07:00 Road to Democracy
11:10 Mood In Romance
DESH TV
10:30 Khelar Shokal
11:00 Desh Amar
03:02 Bangla Feature Film
06:10 Maa-er Bhash Pran-er Bhasha

11:45 Close up Call-er Gaan
BANGLAVISION
12:05 The Spirit of Islam
02:30 Tele-film/Drama On Request
04:05 Music Together
05:25 Din Bodoler Manush
06:20 Drama/Programme On Request
12:00 Sangbad Protidin
HBO
12:30 Beethoven
02:15 Georgia Rule
04:30 Dragonheart
06:45 The Making Of 10,000 B.C.
07:00 Drillbit Taylor
09:00 Tmz 224
09:30 The International
12:00 Mortal Kombat
ESPN
12:30 Barclays Premier League 2009/10
Match: Chelsea vs. Stoke City

02:30 NBA Classic Games 2009/10
Match: Miami Heat vs. Dallas Mavericks
04:30 FIM S1 Supermoto World Championship 2009 - Highlights
05:30 Goals!
06:00 Portugal!
06:30 ICC World T20 2007 H/L
Match: India vs. Pakistan
07:30 Football Asia
08:00 First Edition
08:30 Sportscenter India
09:00 Sportscenter Asia
09:30 Vancouver 2010 Olympic Winter Games - Alpine Skiing
10:30 Sportscenter India
11:00 Sportscenter Asia
11:30 ICC World T20 2007 H/L
Match: India vs. Pakistan
STAR SPORTS
12:00 Internazionali Bnl D'Italia
04:30 TNA Sikander 09/10

05:30 Ace 2010
06:00 Golf Focus 2010
06:30 TNA Sikander 09/10
07:30 Cagewars
08:30 Classic Boxing: Heavyweight Title Fights Of The Early 60's
09:30 Score Tonight
10:00 TNA Sikander 09/10
11:00 Glitch
11:30 Ace 2010
12:00 Nike Football Locker Room 2009/10
AXN
12:30 Top Chef
01:30 Ghost Adventures
02:30 Estate of Panic
03:30 VIDEO ZONKERS
05:30 The Amazing Race Asia
06:30 So You Think You Can Dance
08:30 Top Chef
09:30 Sony Style TV Magazine
10:00 Ebuzz
10:30 Ghost Rider

Talk show
Channel i
09:50am Grameenphone Tritomatray ntv
12:10am Ei Shomoy
RTV
06:00pm Dhrupadi Kahini
BANGLAVISION
11:20pm Anno Nayan

Drama Serial
ATN Bangla
11:30pm Maa Tui Kemon Achhish ntv
08:15pm FrnF
09:45pm Khunshuti
ETV
09:30pm Bhabhi
Desh TV
08:15pm Anubhumi
BANGLAVISION
08:15pm Patiganit
09:05pm Rang-er Dunia
09:45pm Gulshan Avenue

News Bulletin
BTV
News Headlines (Bangla) at 9:00 am.
News (Bangla) at 8:00 am
2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.
News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:00 pm.
Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels).
CHANNEL-i
News (Bangla): 7:00 am,

9:00 am, 2:00 pm, 9:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ATN BANGLA
NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am
News Every Hour: 7:00am, 11:00am, 12:00pm, 01:00pm, 3:00pm, 04:00pm
News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm.
BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 7:30am,

1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm.
News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00am, 4:00pm.
News (English) at 6:00pm
Rtv
News (Bangla): 2:30 pm, 4:30 pm, 6:30 pm, 8:30 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am
ntv
News (Bangla): 7:30am, 12:02pm, 2:00pm,

7:30pm, 10:30pm, 1:00am
ETV
News (Bangla): 9:00am, 11:00 am, 1:00pm, 3:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
abc radio
News: 08:00 am, 12:00 pm, 03:00 pm, 06:00 pm, 09:00 pm, 12:00 am
English Bulletin: 1:30pm, 7:30pm

Anubhumi
On Desh TV at 8:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Mou, Anisur Rahman Milon

The International
On HBO at 9:30 pm
Genre: Action
Cast: Clive Owen, Naomi Watts

Music Together
On Banglavisian and Radio Today at 4:05 pm
Today's Guest: Habib



abc radio 89.2 FM
06:00 Bhorer Janalay
09:00 Mukhorito Jiboney
12:00 Darun Dupurey
03:00 Duranto Bikeley
05:00 Shondhatara
07:00 Shajer Maya
09:00 Raat-er Akashay
11:00 Golper Shesh
RADIO FOORTI
08:00 Addabazi
12:00 Boiler Poka
02:00 Foorti
06:00 Unlimited
10:00 Bumper to Bumper
10:00 Club Foorti
01:00 Back to Back music
RADIO TODAY
07:15 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Musti Unlimited
01:00 Today's World Music
04:00 U Turn
08:00 Tobey Tai Hok
11:00 Raat Bhor Gaan