

WHAT'S ON THIS WEEK

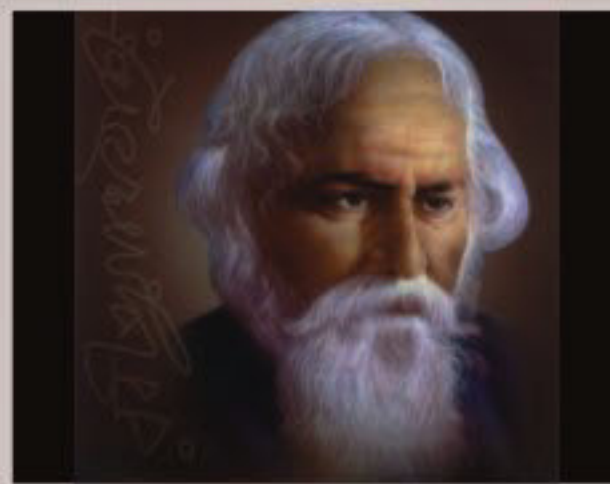
Calligraphy Exhibition

Calligrapher: Najib Tareque
Venue: Impressions Gallery, 67, Gulshan Avenue
Date: August 19-September 19
Time: 9:30am-2:30pm and 4-5pm (Sunday-Thursday) and 10am-1pm (Saturday)



150 Birth Anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore

Title: Kobibandona
Organiser: Rabirag
Venue: Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 17
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre

Play: Punarjanmo
Troupe: Prachyanat
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: September 19
Time: 7pm



Photo Exhibition

To mark Int'l Day of Tourism
Title: Tourist Sights of Moscow and Moscow Region
Venue: Modern Language Institute, DU
Date: September 2-28



Fighting an affliction

Pop Guru Azam Khan returns from Singapore

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Azam Khan, who had oral cancer, recently returned home following his treatment in Singapore. The Daily Star (TDS) caught up with the Pop Guru.

TDS: How are you feeling now?
Azam Khan: I'm fine. Everyone's prayers and love have helped me get better. Apart from some trouble talking, I'm feeling better.

TDS: How have you been recuperating?

Azam Khan: By sleeping, walking on the roof and talking to people who come to see me. Sometimes I go outside to take a stroll. Staying indoors for so long is tough for me.

TDS: Any special memory from Singapore?

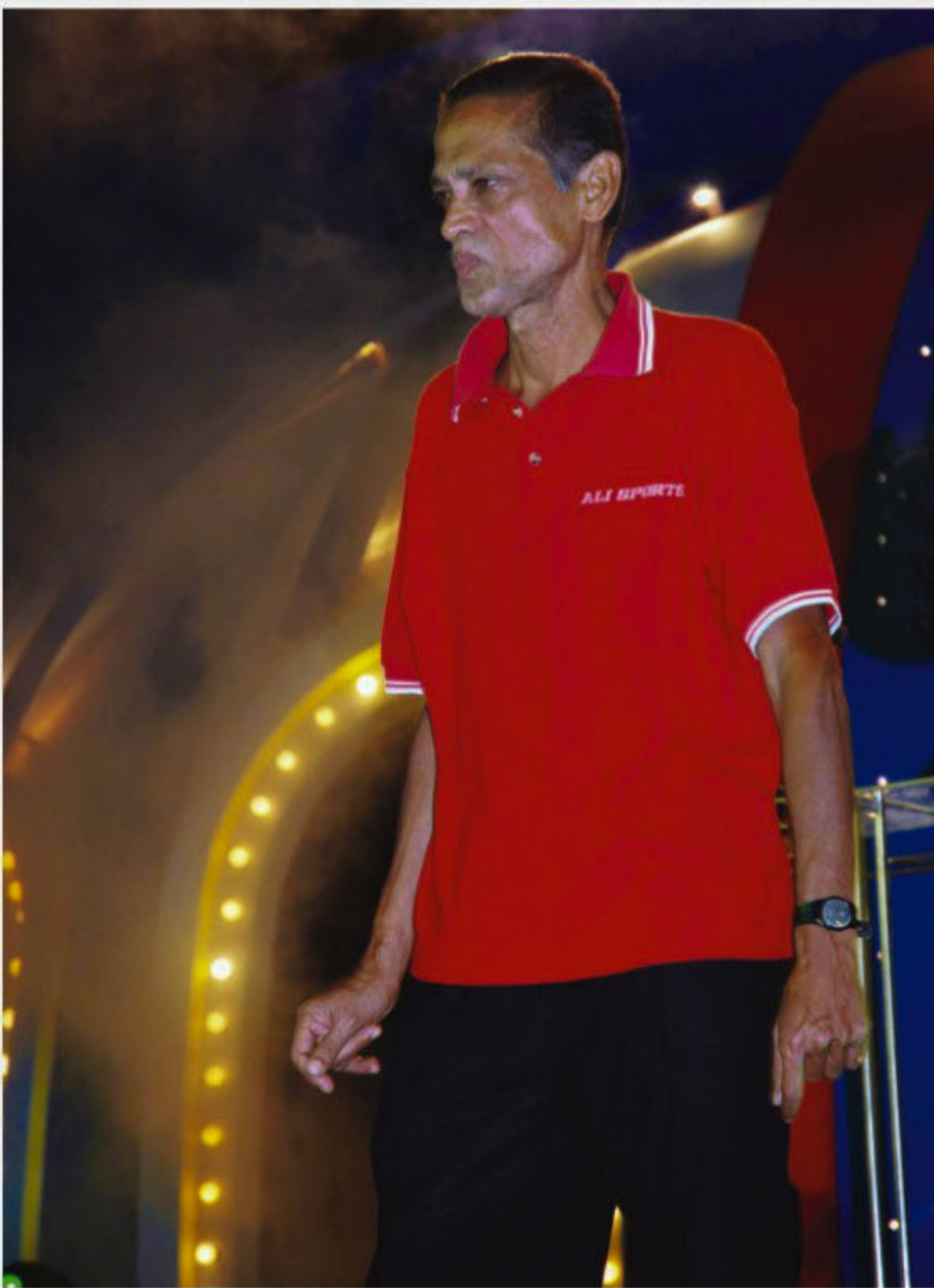
Azam Khan: The affection that I received from the Bangladeshi expatriates living there has been a memorable experience. Their excitement and enthusiasm at seeing me cheered me up.

TDS: How long before you regain your voice completely?

Azam Khan: The surgery I had was inside my mouth, so obviously it will take some time. But my doctors told me it'd be healed.

TDS: How are you feeling after returning home?

Azam Khan: This was the longest I had ever been abroad. It felt suffocating and frustrating at times in Singa-



pore. But all the weight on my shoulder was lifted when I touched Bangladeshi soil at the airport.

TDS: Any bad news you received after returning home?

Azam Khan: Yes. I had a rooster named Lala. He passed away when I was in Singapore. That got me down.

TDS: Tell us more about the medical attention you received in Singapore.

Azam Khan: The quality of health care in Singapore is top notch. However the high expense makes it hard for everyone to go there for treatment.

TDS: Whom would you like to thank for the treatment you received?

Azam Khan: I'm grateful to my loved ones, who stood by me in my time of need. It is their effort, which helped me get the best care in Singapore. I'm also thankful to the Bangladeshi government.

TDS: Do you have to go to Singapore again?

Azam Khan: Yes I will go there again to get further chemotherapy. But the necessary funds are yet to be arranged.

TDS: Would you be able to sing again?

Azam Khan: It's hard to say at the moment. But I was a freedom fighter in '71 and nothing could scare me. I am confident that I'll sing again. I have peoples' love with me for inspiration.

Eid frenzy on TV

But is the audience satisfied?



A CORRESPONDENT

When BTV was the sole Bangladeshi channel on air, Eid programmes extended to three days. With the introduction of more private stations, Eid programmes have become more elaborate, stretching to six-seven days. This Eid over a 100 TV plays, almost 20 tele-films and four mini-series were aired on the numerous channels.

However, the question remains as to who was the most prolific of the directors and actors this Eid. Another question mark looms over the reason for the spike in the number of TV plays during Eid.

Chayanika Chowdhury directed the most TV plays this festive season. The writer with the most screenplays was Brindabon Das, while the other two spots of the podium consecutively went to Sagor Jahan and Humayun Ahmed.

The actors whose face appeared on the screen the most were Mosharrif Karim, Mir Sabbir, Sajal and Anisur Rahman Milon. As for actresses, Bindu took the top spot.

Famous novelist and director Humayun Ahmed made five TV plays for Eid -- "Nosto Bashor", "Amra Jege Aachhi", "Rubik's Cube", "Nil Botam" and "Shada Bari". Humayun Ahmed says his significant output was a response to overwhelming requests from the channels.

For the first time a number of special mini series hit the screen during Eid: Desh TV's "Himu, Misir Ali, Boro Chacha O Baker Bhai", Ekushey TV's "Lolita'r Eid", Rtv's "Mohor Sheikh" and Boishakhi TV's "Premer Naam Bedona".

Brindabon Das, the busiest screenwriter

on Eid, says no drama was written in haste. The Eid plays are the ones, which get the most attention, with no compromise on quality, he adds.

Chayanika Chowdhury, who directed the most TV dramas this Eid, says the increase in channels and TV viewership has caused the spike in the number of TV plays. She also thinks that the increasing audience demand accounts for the seven-day Eid frenzy on the channels.

Eminent TV personality Atiqul Haq Chowdhury opines that the channels cannot be expected to come up with the best Eid plays anymore. Although mediocre and tasteless shows are aired, some TV plays still live up to high standards. Atiqul Haq reminds us that Eid plays do not necessarily mean tickling comedies, but those that touch the core feelings of our lives each year. Twenty years ago the emotions were more intense, but commerce has now infiltrated into the spirit of Eid, he adds. However, Atiqul Haq Chowdhury thinks commercialisation of Eid plays is not a negative phenomenon as long as it fulfils the demands of the viewers' emotions.

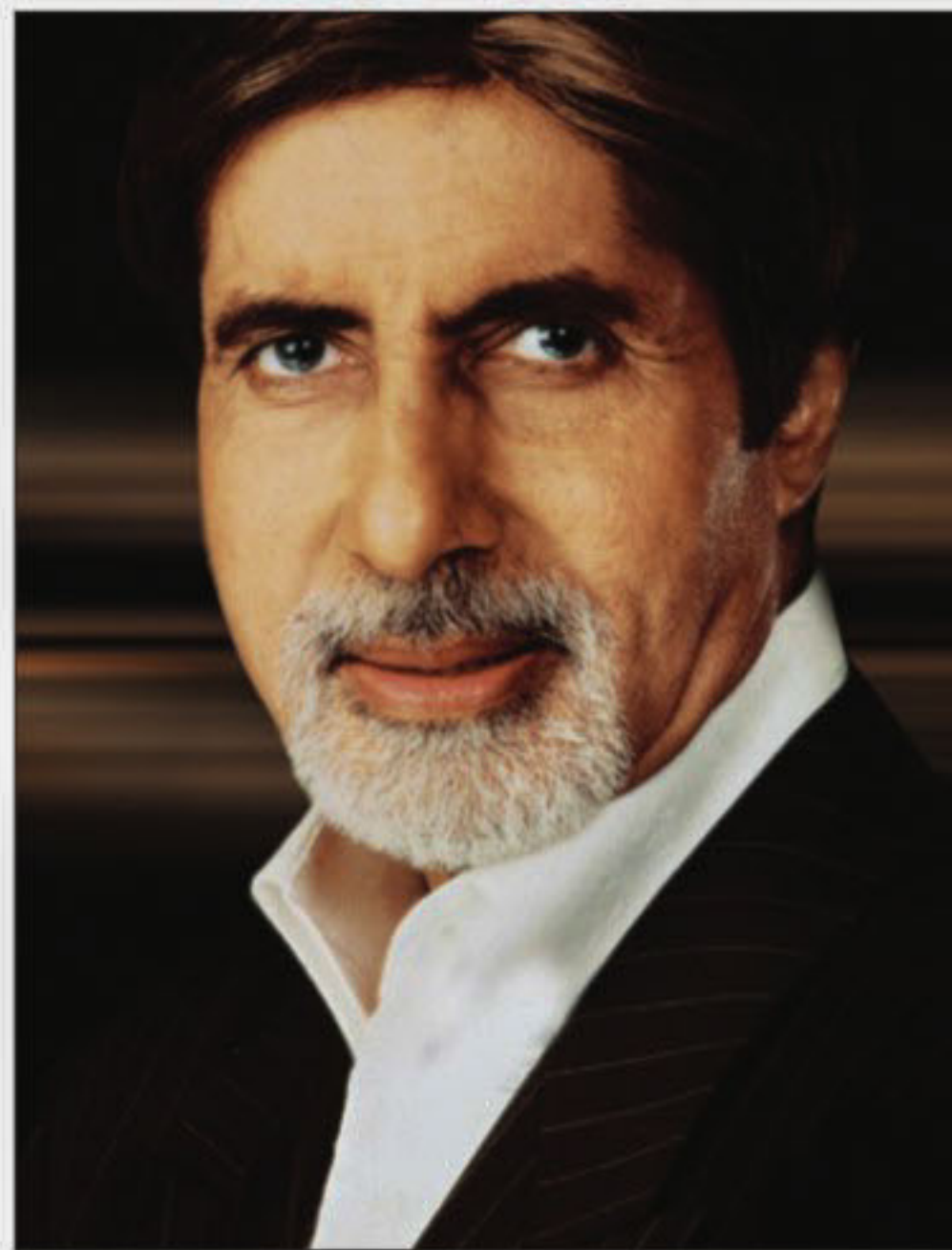
Advisor to ATN Bangla's programme section, Nowazesh Ali Khan points towards increased viewer demand for the stretch of Eid celebrations on the channels, but defends the commercialisation by saying that sponsors are necessary to carry out the effort. However, he also thinks that maintaining standards is the biggest challenge.

Many still think too many advertisement breaks during the Eid programmes are gobbling up the time allotted for pure entertainment. In the bargain, they say, the audience is being short-changed.

Amitabh, "3 Idiots" win Indian National Film Awards



A scene from "3 Idiots" (left), Amitabh Bachchan.



Aamir Khan-starrer "3 Idiots" was chosen as The Best Popular Film, Amitabh Bachchan won The Best Actor award for his role in "Paa" and Malayalam film "Kutti Srank" won the award in the Best Feature Film category as 57th National Film Awards were announced in New Delhi on Wednesday.

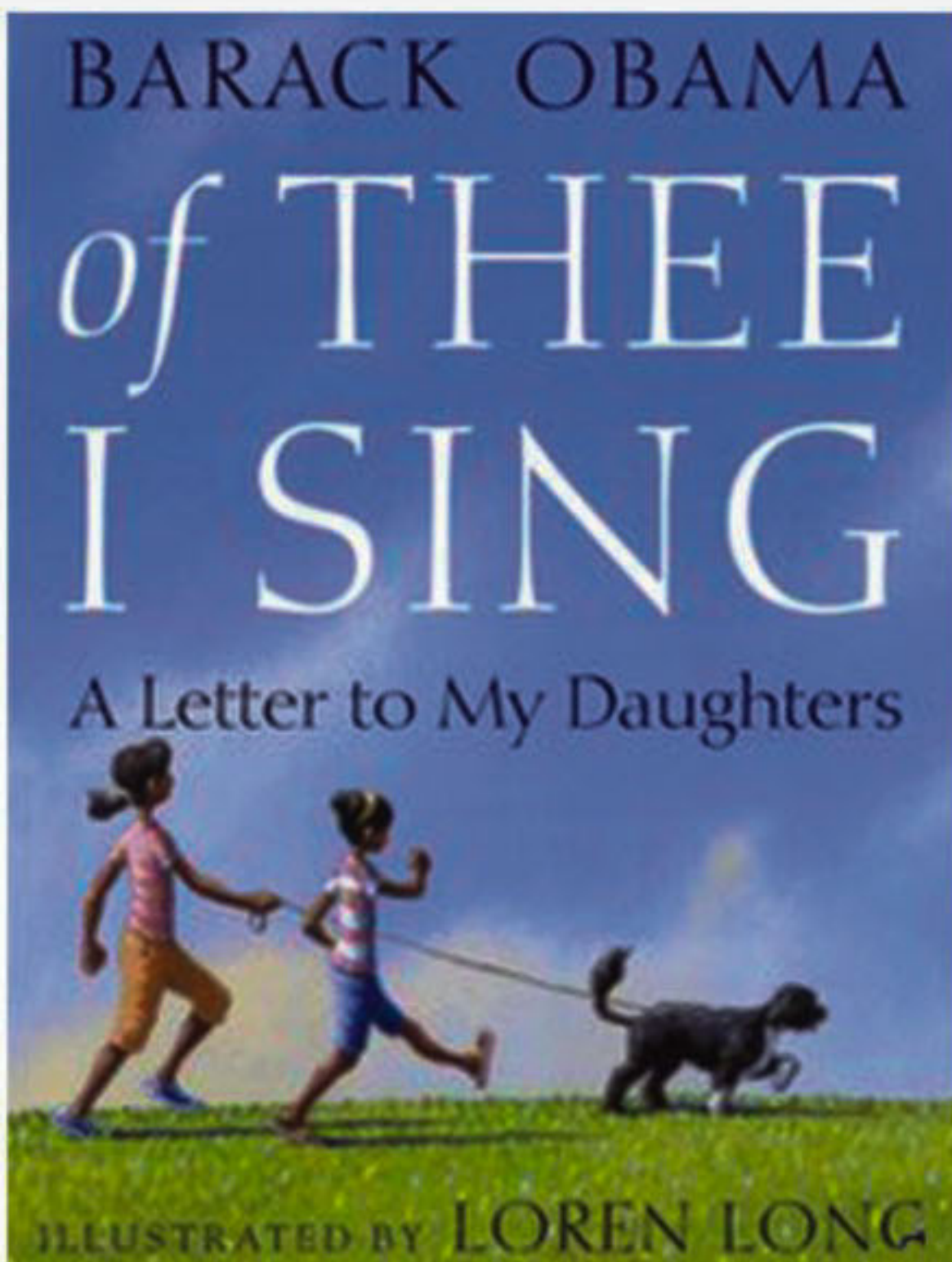
The awards, announced at the Shastri Bhawan in

the national capital, among other categories included Best National Integration film which went to "Delhi 6", award for the Best Debut Director for Sanjay Puri for his film "Lahore" while the Best Director award went to Rituparno Ghosh for his Bengali film "Abohomaan".

Ananya Chatterjee was chosen as the Best

Actress for her role in "Abohomaan", "Well Done Abba" was chosen as the Best Social film, Farooq Sheikh was chosen the Best Supporting Actor for his role in "Lahore" and Best Supporting Actress went to Arundhati Naag for her role in "Paa".

Source: Internet



The book will be published in time for Christmas.

Obama to publish children's book

US President Barack Obama has written a children's book, which is to be published on November 16, two weeks after Congressional mid-term elections.

The book -- "Of Thee I Sing: A Letter To My Daughters" -- was written before Obama took office in January 2009.

The 40-page book pays tribute to 13 Americans, from the first President George Washington to baseball legend Jackie Robinson.

Obama has already published two books that have become best sellers.

The cover of his new book is an illustration of his two daughters, Sasha and Malia, walking their dog Bo.

Proceeds from the book are to go to a scholarship fund for the children of soldiers killed and disabled in wars.

It is being published by Random House, which signed a three-book deal with

Obama in 2004, Associated Press news agency said.

The head of Random House's children's division, Chip Gibson, said "Of Thee I Sing" celebrates the characteristics that unite all Americans -- the potential to pursue dreams and forge own paths.

Obama's 2006 political manifesto, "The Audacity of Hope", was the first of the three books under the Random House contract.

The other is yet to be published.

The president's other book, the autobiographical "Dreams From My Father", was published in 1995.

Obama and his wife Michelle declared joint earnings of \$5.5m (£3.6m) in 2009, mainly from book sales.

Source: BBC

TV Watch

"Na Pathano Chithi" on Desh TV tonight



Saba in a scene from the play.

A CORRESPONDENT

Single-episode TV play "Na Pathano Chithi" will be aired on Desh TV tonight at 7:45 pm. An adaptation of Sunil Gangopadhyay's poem titled "Na Pathano Chithi," the play has been written by Matia Banu Shuku and directed by Sumona Siddiqui.

The story follows Mallika who is sold away by her family. She finds herself in a brothel.

Despite the apparent cruelty, Mallika yearns to be with her family. She wants to meet her parents but her elder brother doesn't give her that opportunity. He doesn't accept the money she earns either, as he considers it to be "dirty". But the money her family earned by selling her, was that money "clean"?

Shohana Saba dons the character of Mallika. The cast also includes Dolly Zahur, Ahsanul Haque Minu, Alamgir Hossain, Farida Lima, Sumon Saha and Dwaito Banotulshi.