

WHAT'S ON

Folk Festival
To mark Waheedul Haque birth anniversary
Title: Desh Ghorer Gaan
Venue: Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, DU
Date: March 16 at 7pm onwards

Group Art Exhibition
In Honour of Drednotas Das Dev
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, University of Dhaka
Date: March 12-17
Time: 10am-8pm

Film Show
Organiser: Dhaka University Film Society
Venue: Russian Cultural Centre Auditorium, 14-510, R-7, Dharmamandi
Date: March 16-17, Time: 3pm

Exhibition
Title: Peace Women Across the Globe, Peace Women Across Bangladesh
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmamandi
Date: March 8-19

Solo Photography Exhibition
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince
Venue: Alliance Francaise de Dhaka, Dharmamandi
Date: March 25-April 6

Hindustani Classical Musical Soiree
Artist: Padma Vibhushan Pandit Jasraj
Venue: National Theatre Hall, BSA, Date: March 18, Time: 8:30pm

Theatre
Play: Bhumadhyasagar
Troupe: Oboyob Natyadali
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: March 17 at 7pm

Solo Printmaking Exhibition
Artist: Savitri Ghosh
Venue: Zainul Gallery, FFA, University of Dhaka
Date: March 13-17

Group Art exhibition
Title: Women in Nature
Venue: Drik Gallery, H-58, R-15A, Dharmamandi
Date: March 17-23
Time: 3pm-8pm



TAKIR HOSSAIN

After a hiatus of 12 years, noted sculptor-painter Syed Abdullah Khalid's solo painting exhibition, titled "Colour and Nature", will be held at Gallery Kaya in Uttara [from April 11-25]. His last exhibition was held in 1998 at Gallery 21 (the gallery is now defunct).

Khalid said, "Over the last few years, Gautam Chakraborty, director of Gallery Kaya have requested me to hold an exhibition at his gallery. Finally, I agreed. Around 40 paintings will be displayed at the exhibition -- mostly done in acrylic, and a few oil paintings."

"Most of the paintings had been done between 2001 and 2006. After 2006, I was seriously ill and could not produce a single painting.



Khalid's solo painting exhibition, titled "Colour and Nature", will be held at Gallery Kaya in Uttara; the artist (bottom-left).

Competition on Inspirational Songs in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

A district level competition on Gano Sangeet (inspirational songs) was held last Tuesday at the office of Magura Mahila Parishad in the town. The contest saw participation of 42 aspiring singers from four upazilas of the district. The participants were divided into two age groups -- below and over 15.

The competition organised by Magura district unit of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi was held as a part of the national level competition to be held in Dhaka on March 27 and 28 to mark Udichi founder Satyen Sen's 103rd birth anniversary, organisers said.

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Secretary of Udichi's Magura unit, Biswajit Chakraborti said, "As a part of the competition on Gano Sangeet to be held in Dhaka, we completed the selection of Magura competitors who will take part in the Khulna divisional competition, to be held on

Sculpting Icons

Artist Syed Abdullah Khalid makes a comeback after 12 years

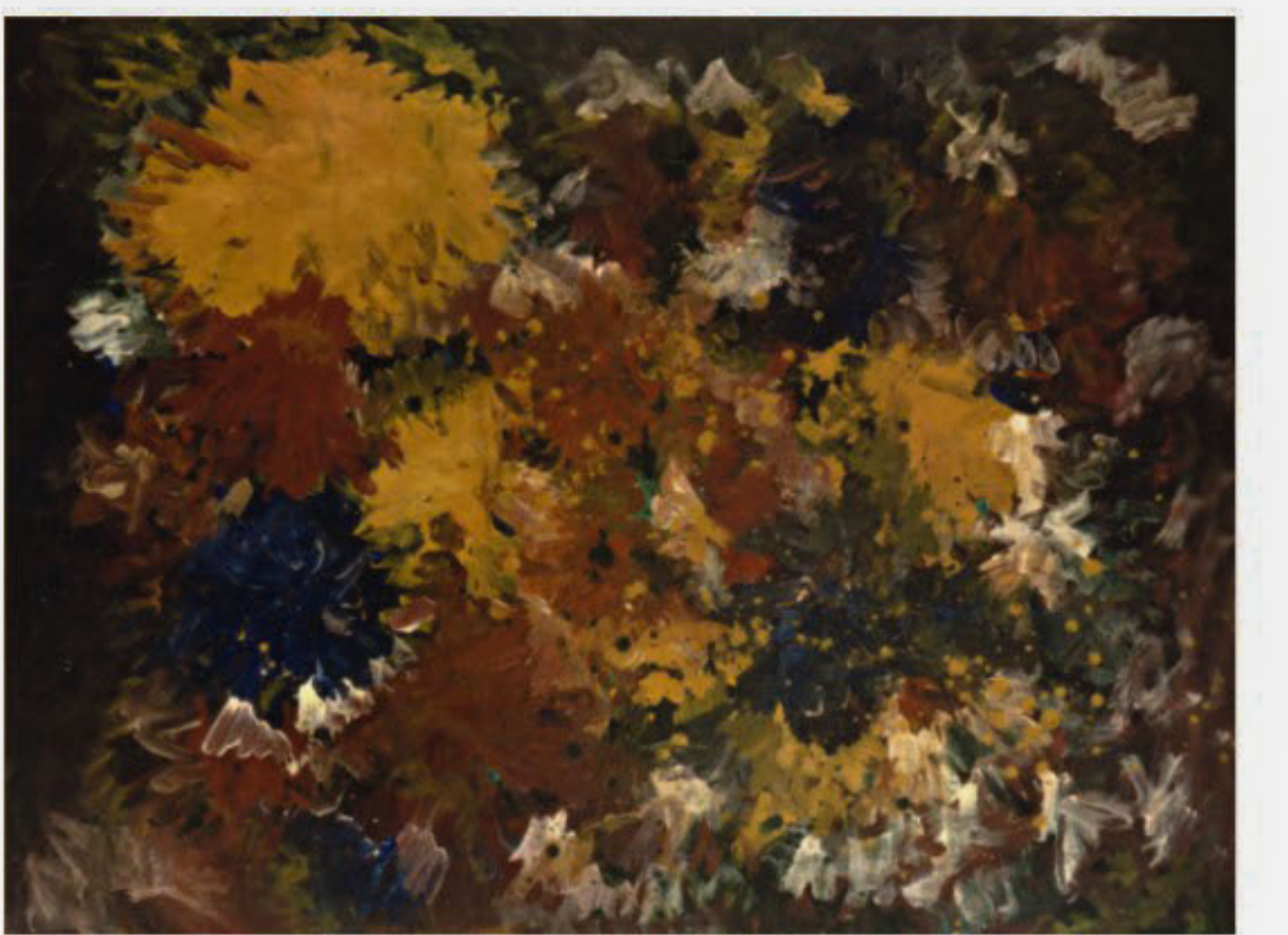


Khalid's solo painting exhibition, titled "Colour and Nature", will be held at Gallery Kaya in Uttara; the artist (bottom-left).

ill and could not produce a single painting. This year I've started concentrating on painting again. Colours and forms are the noticeable

features of my recent works." Khalid completed his BFA in painting in 1969 from East Pakistan College of Arts and Crafts (presently Faculty of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka) and did his MFA in painting and sculpture in 1974.

"When I was a student of Dhaka University, Mir Mustafa



Ali, head of Department of Ceramics, and Abdur Razzaque, head of Department of Sculpture, encouraged me to work on sculptures," the artist said.

Khalid's amicability earned him friendships with several legendary personalities of the country. He has done busts of Dr. Motahar Hossain Chowdhury, Professor Abdur Razzaque, folklorist Monsur Uddin Ahmed and poet Jasimuddin, among others.

Khalid is currently a Professor at the Sculpture Department, Institute of Fine Arts, University of Dhaka.

'90s Khalid made his realistic inspirations more visible. He likes to use a big canvas for portraying untamed nature, landscapes and still life. Blossoming flowers and dense forest are recurring features in his paintings.

In many of Khalid's works, one finds a great interchange between abstract and realistic forms. The works of Vincent van Gogh, Rembrandt, Michael Angelo and Bangladeshi painters Mustafa Monwar, Rashid Choudhury, Quamrul Hassan and Zainul Abedin inspire him.

Khalid is well known for his sculpture on the Liberation War, "Aparajeyo Bangla" on Dhaka University campus. His other noteworthy sculptures are "Abahoman Bangla", "Ankur", "Eternal Bengal", "Angikar", "Dolphin" and "Mother and Child".

CRICKET CRAZE "Mar Chhokka" on Channel i tonight

A CORRESPONDENT

TV serial "Mar Chhokka" will be aired tonight at 9:35 pm on Channel i. Written and directed by Ferdous Hasan, the serial highlights the craze over World Cup Cricket 2011.

Cricket fever has taken over the nation. Two strangers walk into a certain household. The family members, along with the two strangers, seemingly enjoy watching the cricket matches. Romance and hilarity ensue. Former captain of the Bangladesh cricket team Khaled Masud Pilot also makes an appearance.

The cast includes Abul Hayat, Dolly Zahur, Shahed, Sumaiya Shimu, Meem, Shuvo, Swadhin Khosru, and others. The serial is aired everyday at the same time.



Jasimuddin Bengali Folk Life Epitomised

"Jasimuddin knows every fact of village life in Bengal and is partial to rural people. The heroes of his poems and stories are farmers, fishermen, boatmen, weavers, cowherds, even roadside barbers, wandering gypsies, palmists and astrologers..." -- Verrier Elwin [anthropologist, ethnologist and tribal activist]

In a foreword to the translation of Jasimuddin's "Nakshi Kanthar Math", Elwin wrote, "I do not know whether 'The Field of the Embroidered Quilt' [Nakshi Kanthar Math] can be classed as folk-poetry, but it is obviously poetry about the folk. After nearly ten years of village life [in undivided India] I find every detail of the picture, every turn of the story, waking a response in my mind." What Elwin said of "The Field" can also be said of "Gipsy Wharf" [Shojon Badiyar Ghat]. The two poems were written within four years of each other, while Jasimuddin was still at Calcutta University, doing research under the famed Bengali scholar, Dr. Dinesh Chandra Sen.

March 13 marked the 35th death anniversary of Jasimuddin. Jasimuddin was born on January 1, 1903 at Tambulkhana in Faridpur. He completed IA from Rajendra College in 1924, and BA and MA in Bangla from the University of Calcutta in 1929 and 1931 respectively.

In 1938 he joined the University of Dhaka as lecturer. He left the university in 1944 to join the Department of Information and Broadcasting. He continued working there, until his retirement as Deputy Director in 1962.

Jasimuddin's poetic prowess developed early. As a college student, he wrote the poem "Kobor" (Grave). The poem, a dramatic monologue of an old man talking to his grandson in front of his wife's grave, was included in school textbooks while Jasimuddin was still a student at university.

His first book of verse, "Rakkhali" (Shepherd), was published in 1927. Other notable books include "Nakshi Kanthar Math" (1929); "Shojon Badiyar Ghat" (1933); "Rangila Nayer Majhi" (1935); "Matir Kanna" (1951); "Suchayani" (1961); "Padma Nadir Deshe" (1969) and "Beder Meyer" (1951). He edited two books on folk music: "Pari Gaan" (1968) and "Murshida Gaan" (1977).

Known to Bengalis as "Polli Kobi" (folk poet), Jasimuddin poetry is a testament



to the unpretentious, effortless appeal of rural Bengal and folk life. His poetic rhythms are drawn from folk elements, easy on the ear and quick to imbibe themselves in the memory. He was also a writer of fine prose -- fluent, witty, and expressive.

Jasimuddin was one of the pioneers of the progressive and non-communal cultural movement in Bengal. He was an ardent supporter of socialism and of Bengali nationalism. In the 1950s when the government of Pakistan attempted to stop broadcasting Tagore songs, he protested boldly.

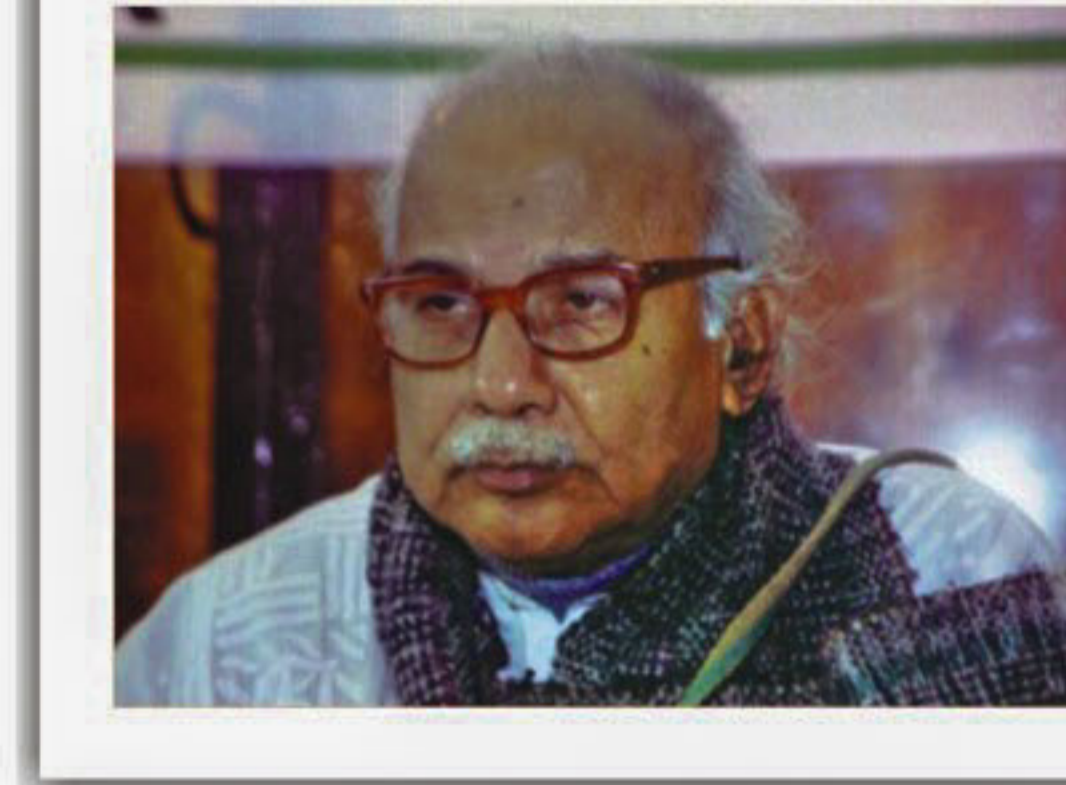
Jasimuddin also composed numerous songs in the tradition of rural Bengal. His collaboration with folk singer

extraordinaire Abbasuddin produced some of the gems of Bangla folk music, especially of the Bhatiali sub-genre. Jasimuddin also wrote some modern songs for the radio. "Nisheethey Jayoy Phoolbon-e-Re Bhromora", written by Jasimuddin and recorded by the legendary music composer-singer Shachin Dev Barman remains hugely popular to this day.

In 1969 Jasimuddin was awarded the D Litt by Rabindra Bharati University. He also won several awards, including Ekushey Padak (1976) and Swadhinata Dibas Purushkar (posthumous, 1978). Jasimuddin died in Dhaka in 1976 and was buried in his own village.

COMPILED BY CORRESPONDENT

Musical Homage to Waheedul Haque



STAFF CORRESPONDENT

As a tribute to eminent cultural activist and Tagore exponent Waheedul Haque, a driving force behind the nationalist cultural movement for decades, Chhayanat is holding a musical programme titled "Desh Char-er Gaan 1417" this evening. Featuring the opulent heritage of Bengali folk music, the

programme to be held at Bakultala, Faculty of Fine Arts, Dhaka University, will start from 7pm. Veteran singer Sushoma Das will inaugurate the programme.

Waheedul Haque believed that it would not be possible to form a complete impression of our culture, without becoming familiar with our folk music -- rooted in our tradition. Upholding this ideal, Chhayanat has been arranging this programme for the last five years, highlighting various forms of folk songs practiced in different parts of the country.

The night-long soiree will include Kobi Gaan, Kirtan, Gambhira, Pala Gaan, Baul Gaan, Bhawaiya, Radharaman O Rashiklaal-er Gaan and Fakir Lalon Shai-er Gaan. Aside from Chhayananur's regular artists, renowned artists and troupes from across the country will perform on the occasion.

Munni Enters Guinness World Record

"Munni Badnaam Hui", the smash hit item number from Salman Khan-starrer "Dabangg", has created history by entering the Guinness Book of World Records in Melbourne, Australia.

Over 1,200 people danced for three minutes to the song, led by Malaika Arora Khan, who featured in the original song as well.

The event was organised by Indian Film festival 2011 director Mitu Bhownick Lange to promote Bollywood in Australia.

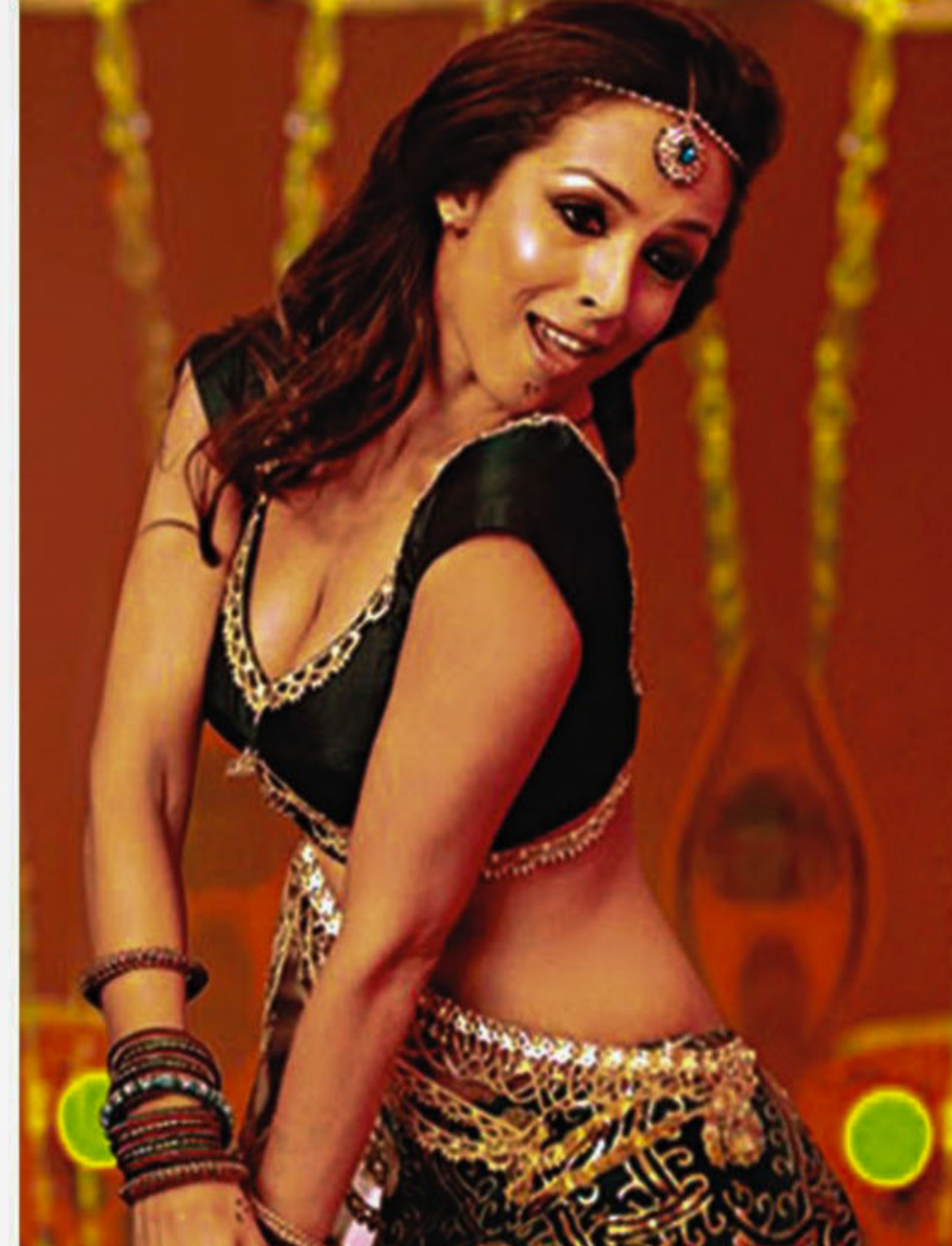
The song was played at Melbourne Park on the weekend with over 1,200 people dancing together.

Malaika received a certificate for setting the record on Sunday. "It's been amazing to see such a large crowd come together and dance with same steps on this exciting number," Lange said.

The earlier record was set in Singapore when over 1,008 people danced to a song.

Malaika was accompanied by her husband Arbaaz Khan. The gala evening was also attended by Vidya Balan and Pakistan pop singer Ali Zafar.

Source: Internet



Aamir's birthday wish I'm waiting for Salman's wedding

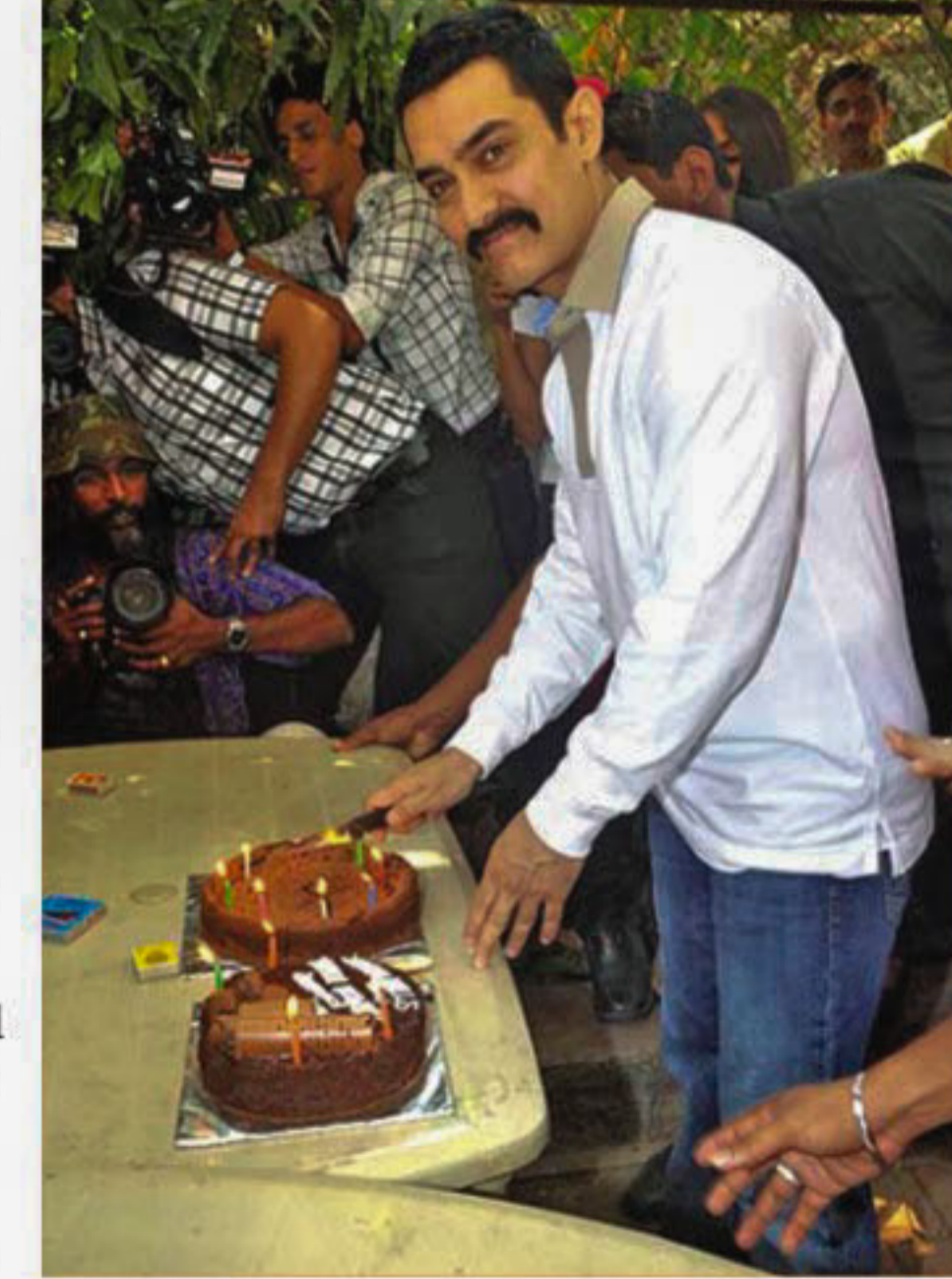
PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi,

Guess what! Bollywood superstar Aamir Khan had expected from his fans when he celebrated his 45th birthday at his home in Mumbai on March 14.

Well, he was waiting for a title to his forthcoming feature film opposite Rani Mukerji and Kareena Kapoor. "It is a suspense-thriller film. I request my fans and audience to think of a name," Aamir said.

Besides the yet-to-be-titled project, Aamir would be seen in Yash Raj's "Dhoom 3".

Aamir, like everyone, is also waiting eagerly for his friend-actor Salman Khan to get married.



I am waiting for Salman's wedding. I believe everyone is desperately waiting for his wedding. The day he gets married would be special for all of us. Whenever I talk to Salman about wedding he just smiles," Aamir said.

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"I don't think the fact that I am on the wrong side of 40 affects me. With passing years I had a lot of good things happening. I feel professionally I am at the peak of my career," he said.

The actor says he is grateful to his family, friends and fans for all the love and blessings.

Aamir diversified into production and gave blockbusters like "Taare Zameen Par", "Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na", "Peepli Live" and "Dhobi Ghat" directed by his wife Kiran Rao. "I am happy that I could support two talented women directors -- Anusha Rizvi and Kiran," Aamir said.

For the past several years, audiences have seen men's perspective of filmmaking...their emotions and understanding of relations. We haven't seen much perspective of a female director as few women take up direction. But now things are changing," he said.

The year 2011 so far might be one of Aamir's busiest years. He is shooting for the upcoming movie, learning Marathi language, swimming and sculpting his body for "Dhoom 3" which will roll in January next year.

The one thing, however, he would love to start to learn how to cook. "Honestly, I haven't yet begun."

DHAKA UNIVERSITY THEATRE FEST Buddhadev Basu's Kaththokra Staged

JAMIL MAHMUD

Buddhadev Basu's "KathThokra" was staged on March 14 at Natmandal auditorium of Dhaka University as part of the fortnight-long theatre festival that ended yesterday. The Department of Theatre, Dhaka University arranged the festival as part of the final year students' curriculum.

Atiqur Rahman directed the play. The title of the play symbolically refers to the individual self-consciousness that is aroused when guilt emerges. The playwright uses the term "Kaththokra" or woodpecker as the conscience knocks on the human soul relentlessly.

The plot zooms in on three individuals -- a couple and their family friend who is a poet. The couple's calm and peaceful lives change

with the friend's arrival. As the plot further develops, it is revealed that the woman was once in a relationship with the poet, and she never managed to get over him.

The twist comes when one day the trio go to the nearby woods. There the couple loses the poet forever.

Mirza Shakheseep Shakib and Ishrat Kabir played as the couple; Atiqul Islam donned the role of the poet. All three actors made good effort to enact their respective characters. The set design deserves special mention. Apart from the usual elements, the set was well decorated with lots of trees and plants that created an apt woody ambience. Sound effects further enhanced that.



A scene from the play. PHOTO: GOLAM MAHBUB

Naved Rahman did the set, light and costume designing.