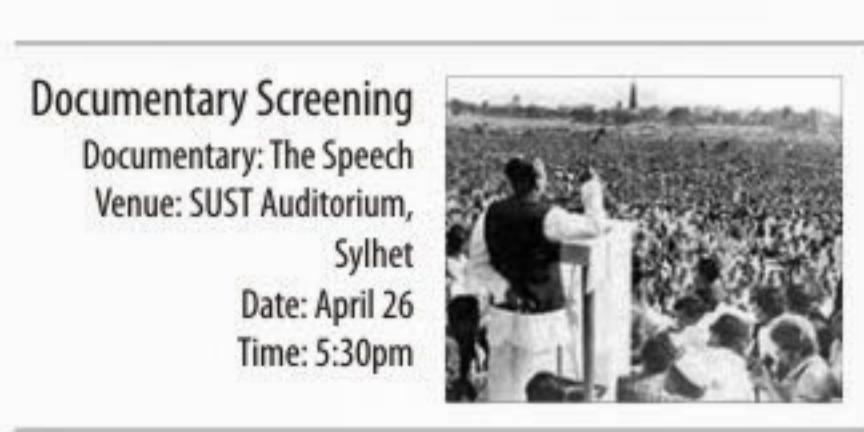


WHAT'S ON



Movie Review

Guerrilla

Narrating a cruel yet tragically inspiring history

Although the random acts of intolerable violence might seem unreal to post-war generations, the filmmaker wants them to know this was the price the nation had to pay for freedom.

OSAMA RAHMAN

The nationwide release of the movie "Guerrilla" coincided with the Bengali New Year and this was done rightfully so. "Guerrilla" narrates the tale of Bilkis (played by Joya Ahsan), a freedom fighter, who actively participates in the Liberation War while searching for her lost husband. Based on Syed Shamsul Haque's novel "Nishiddho Loban", the movie also adds elements from its director Nasiruddin Yousuff's personal experiences during the war.

Initially, the premise seems simple enough: Bilkis' husband, Hasan Ahmed (played by Ferdous), is a journalist by profession, goes missing as the war breaks out. Holding onto the belief that her husband is still alive, Bilkis scours every place for him while actively taking part in the armed resistance and continuing the

publication of the magazine Guerrilla that speaks for the freedom fighters. It isn't a one-woman struggle however, as Bilkis is surrounded by a cast of powerful supporting characters -- all with the same agenda of finally ridding the country of the Pakistani occupation forces. As the movie progresses these characters are introduced and seamlessly blended into the storyline.

Where quite a few movies based on the Liberation War have not worked, "Guerrilla" succeeds, as it remarkably infuses fiction with reality. This is most evident by Ahmed Rubel's portrayal of Shaheed Altaf Mahmud, composer of "Amar Bhai-er Rokte Rangano Ekushey February".

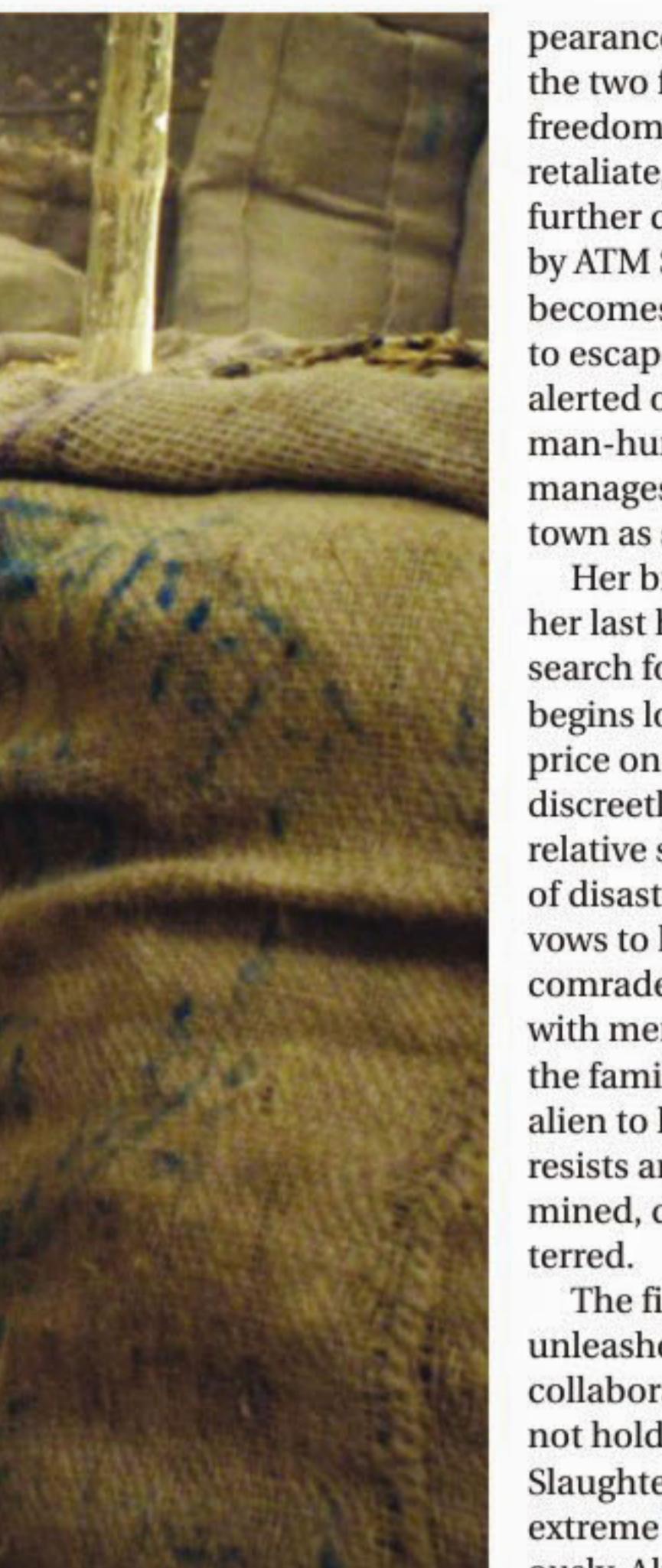
Although the role is brief, it strikes a chord with the audience, who witness Altaf's dedication to his country as he continues to unearth gems of Bengali literature in a bid to preserve them and warily refuses to compose Urdu songs despite pressure.

While Bilkis plans with Altaf, the hauntingly beautiful tunes created by the composer plays in the background, moving the audience to a contradictory reverie of calm and despair.

There are other characters as well who form an integral part of the movie.

Shatabdi Wadud, ATM Shamsuzzaman, and Pijush Bandyopadhyay, among others, carry out their roles convincingly, engaging the audience in this gripping narrative. Wadud deserves special praise for his portrayal of a Pakistani Major. Having almost perfected the accent, the actor presents a cardboard figure of the merciless, hard-drinking and womanising Pakistani Major. He evolves from an actor into a persona we all love to hate.

In the movie, we see Bilkis getting wrapped up in the movement, while keeping on the lookout for any news of her husband and taking care of her mother-in-law who blames Bilkis for the dis-

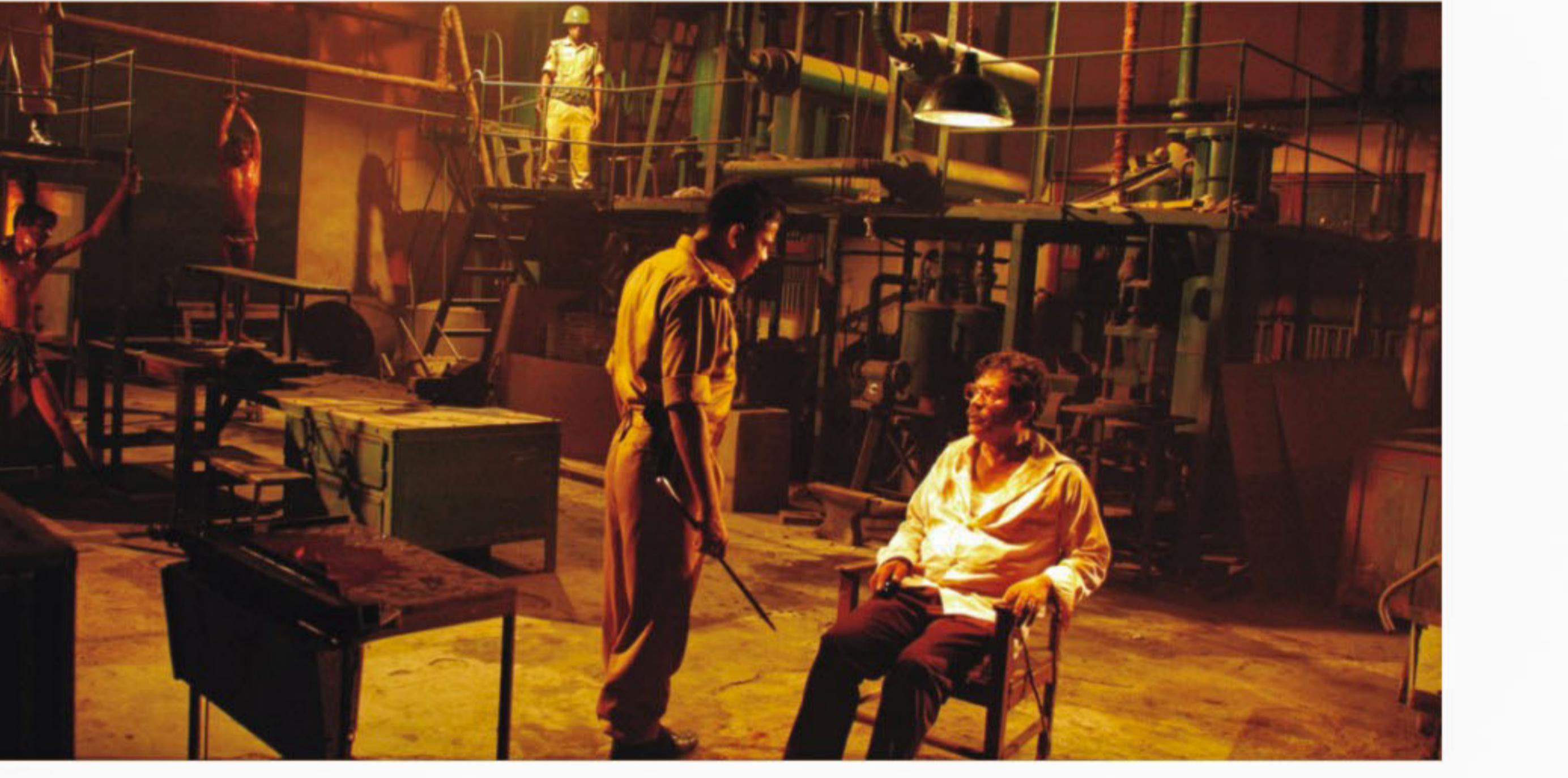


pearance of Hasan till her last breath. As the two forces, the Pakistani army and the freedom fighters, attack each other and retaliate, the pressure increases to curb further damages. Matlub Sardar, essayed by ATM Shamsuzzaman, at one point becomes Bilkis' sole protector, helping her to escape as the occupation forces are alerted of her involvement. A massive man-hunt ensues and Bilkis somehow manages to escape, opting for her hometown as sanctuary.

The true nature of the razakar (collaborators of the Pakistani army) is also exposed but a further dimension is added in the shape of religious extremism. As a Hindu woman is thrown off the train just because of her creed, Bilkis urges the men to oppose but no one dares. In an act of defiance Bilkis then removes her burqa, despite warnings from the passengers. This defining moment serves as a testament to the courage of not only Bilkis but the many women who sacrificed their lives for the cause.

This movie should appeal to a younger demographic, those who have not seen the war, as they get to see just how deep-rooted the movement for freedom was -- people from all walks of life uniting to free the country.

Joya's performance holds the movie together, even when the plot falters. This is yet another feather in the cap for the accomplished actor. "Guerrilla" is indeed a must-see, especially for those who are yet to face the grave realities of a period that defines our history; a history that is cruel yet tragically inspiring.



Fusing Eastern and Western Dance Styles in Tagore's Tasher Desh

AKRAM HOSEN MAMUN

As part of British Council's four-month long festival, titled "Rediscovering Tagore", a contemporary performance of Tagore's famous dance-drama "Tasher Desh" will be staged at National Auditorium, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy on April 22.

This adaptation of "Tasher Desh" (a Shadonna production) will present a fusion of classical Indian and contemporary British dance forms. Accomplished Bangladeshi dancer Warda Rihab (who specialises in Manipuri dance) and Rachel Krische, head of Dance at Leeds Metropolitan University, UK (known for her expertise on contemporary British dance forms) are jointly choreographing the dance drama.

Sharing her experience of working with Bangladeshi dancers, Rachel said, "My visit to Dhaka was to find those movements of

contemporary western dance that do not clash with Manipuri and Chhau. And I think Rachel has been good at it. The blend has been so seamless that I think the audience will have a hard time telling which movements are contemporary and which are Manipuri," Rihab added.

Commenting on the ways in which their staging of "Tasher Desh" will be different from other performances of "Rabindranath Dance", Warda Rihab said, "Rabindranath dance-dramas are substantially different from other dance forms. That's why they call Rabindra Nritya (Rabindranath Dance). Rabindranath Dance usually comprises of classical dance forms. For the first time in Bangladesh, we're trying to mingle western contemporary dance with classical Chhau and Manipuri. This approach to "Tasher Desh" is completely new and I believe the audience will like it. I admire Rachel's enthusiasm."

The Daily Star is the communication partner of the "Rediscovering Tagore" festival.

Poetic Images Inspired by Tagore

Bishu Nandi's photo exhibition

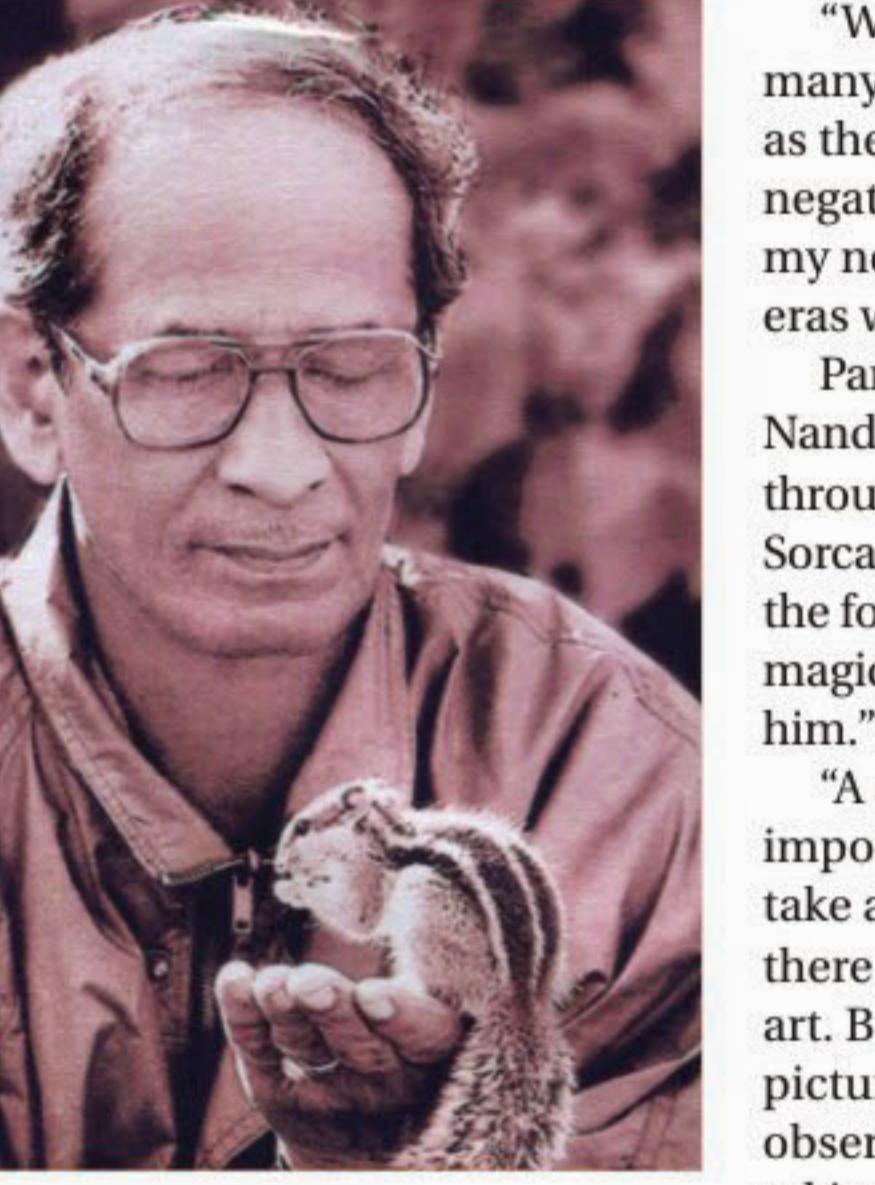
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the approaching 150th birth anniversary of Rabindranath Tagore, Shanto-Mariam Foundation has organised a photo exhibition featuring the works of noted Indian photographer Bishu Nandi. Titled "Chhobir Antore Tumi Kobi", the exhibition was inaugurated on Sanjoy Bhattacharjee, Deputy High Commissioner of the Indian High Commission, on April 16 at Creative Destination of Shanto-Mariam University.

Enamul Kabir Shanto, chairman of Shanto-Mariam Foundation; Tahmina Chowdhury Kabir Mariam, vice-chairman of Shanto-Mariam Foundation; noted cultural personality Kamal Lohani, among others, spoke on the occasion. Dr. Shamsul Haque, vice chancellor of Shanto-Mariam University of Creative Technology delivered the welcome speech.

Noted Rabindra Sangeet artistes Papia Sarwar and Himadri Shekhar performed at the inaugural session, while reciter Bhawar Banerjee gave a recitation at the programme.

Nandi said, "When I was eight [in 1938], I got a chance to pay tribute to the great bard Rabindranath Tagore. He was an inspiration. When I was 20, the camera



Bishu Nandi plays with a squirrel.

was my only friend. I travelled to many countries where I saw rivers, forests, people and diverse cultural dimensions. I snapped them with my camera.

At the exhibition, his images highlight pure nature, pastoral beauty, children, foliage, birds, dew drops on emerald stalks of grass, blooming mustard fields, golden paddy field, late afternoon scenes and many legendary figures like Mother Teresa, Jamini Roy, Suchitra Mitra and Soumitra Chatterjee.

The exhibition ends today.



Bishu Nandi (right), Sanjoy Bhattacharjee (middle) and other dignitaries at the opening of the exhibition.

erable violence might seem unreal to post-war generations, the filmmaker wants them to know this was the price the nation had to pay for freedom. At one point the story seems to be lost as the protagonist loses her way, but then another side of the story is revealed, that which was being fought outside the cities.

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DHAKA STREET THEATRE FEST '11

opens at Shaheed Minar

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With the theme "Natun Hobey Raajpothe Jibon Juddha Ek-i Sathey", the weeklong Dhaka Street Theatre Festival 2011 opened at Central Shaheed Minar on April 19. State Minister for Cultural Affairs, Advocate Promode Mankin, inaugurated the festival as chief guest. Bangladesh Patho Natok Parishad (BPNP) in collaboration with Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged the festival.

Noted cultural personality Saduzzaman Noor MP; President of International Theatre Institute (Worldwide) Ramendu Majumdar; Director General of BSA Liakat Ali Lucky; Vice President and General Secretary of Shammillito Shangskritik Jote Hasan Arif and Golam Kuddus; Secretary General of Bangladesh Group Theatre Federation Jhuna Chowdhury, chief of Padatik Natya Sangsad (Bangladesh) Selim SH Chowdhury and Vice President and General Secretary of BPNP Mafizur Rahman and Mizanur Rahman respectively spoke on the occasion.

Vice President of BPNP, Khandaker Shah Alam, presided over the discussion. Praising government's budget allocation for the first time to support cultural activism throughout the year in the country, the speakers emphasised on the need for trial of the war criminals. They also denounced the recent attack on Bauls at Pangsha, Rajbari.

Prior to the inaugural, several instrumentalists played popular folk tunes. National anthem, followed by renditions of "Baan Eshechhey Mora Gang-e" and "Jibon Dilam Moron Dilam" were presented by the artistes of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi.

Six plays -- "Jiyonto Kaal" (written by Rubaiyat Ahmed and jointly directed by Wasim Ahmed and Samiun Jahan); "Notun Projonna" (written and directed by Rafiqul Alam); "Aar Khoma Nai" (written and directed by Mirza Abdur Razak); "Joir", (written and directed by Rashidul Islam Raju and Kamal Barai); "Jolo Chitta Bagh" (written and directed by Hamidur Rahman Sujan and Gazi Mahbub Hasan) and "Shakhhii" (written and directed by Faruk Prodhan and Tosadek Hussain Manna) -- were staged on the opening day by Dhaka Theatre, Sanglap Group Theatre, Bohubachan Theatre, Dyash Bangla Theatre, Natyarat and Padatik Natya Sangsad (Bangladesh) respectively.

The story of the play "Shakhhii" zooms in on the trial of war criminals. The protagonist of the play, posing as an insane man, unites freedom fighters, Birangona and other pro-Liberation War forces of the society to identify the war criminals and bring them to justice. Kamal Hossain donned the protagonist.



PHOTO: MUMIT M.

ATN BANGLA	Bangla Feature Film Shundor Jibon-er Jonno Bihongi Kotha	10:40 03:45 10:45 11:00	Shangbadh
Diganta TV	Score Card Sports Week Inside Story Pothe Prantorey	12:30 03:30 03:30 09:25	
CHANNEL 1	Ebong Cinemar Gaan Prokriti O Jibon Hridoy Mati O Manusher Daak Ajkher Shongbadpotro	01:05 02:40 03:10 12:00	Z
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ETV	Music U-phone Ekushey-er Business Samskrito Samachar	03:30 05:25	HBO

abc radio FM 89.2	Morning Express
06:00 Bhor Janay	01:00 My Time
09:00 Mukhor Jonoye	01:00 No Tension
12:00 Duran Duprey	04:00 Dhaka Calling
03:00 Duranto Bilekey	09:00 Night Rider
05:00 Shondhatria	10:00 Back to Music
07:00 Shajer Maya	10:00 TODAY FM 89.0
09:00 Raat-er Akhey	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
11:00 Golper Shech Nei	12:00 Today's Adda
Radio Foorti	04:00 U Turn

Tomar Jonno	Morning Express
Amar E Gaan	On Rtv at 11:30pm
On Rtv at 11:30pm	Musical Programme
Tomar Jonno	Singer: Khurshid Alam



He's Just That Into You	On HBO at 09:30pm
On HBO at 09:30pm	Genre: Drama/
He's Just That Into You	Roman, Morgan
He's Just That Into You	Lily



05:40 Sports Plus	the Earth
06:30 Dosh Jure	Star Movies
07:50 Paddokuri	Black Death
10:10 Drama	Sorority Row
10:10 Drama	Youth in Revolt
10:10 Drama	Deadly Impact
10:10 Drama	Brooklyn's Finest
10:10 Drama	Hunt For Eagle One
10:10 Drama	Street Fighters
10:10 Drama	Discovery Channel
10:10 Drama	Life in Cold Blood
10:10 Drama	My Shocking Story
10:10 Drama	Build It Bigger
10:10 Drama	Rampage
10:10 Drama	A Haunting
10:10 Drama	Star World
10:10 Drama	Community
10:10 Drama	Las Vegas
10:10 Drama	Coffee With Karen
10:10 Drama	How I Met Your Mother
10:10 Drama	Dexter
10:10 Drama	