

WHAT'S ON

**Nazrul Utshab**  
Organiser: Chhayanaut  
Venue: Chhayanaut Bhavan, H-72, R-15/A, Dhanmondi  
Date: July 1-2  
Time: 6:30pm

**Solo Painting Exhibition**  
Title: Churning Life  
Artist: Balodhe Adhikary  
Venue: National Art Gallery, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 28-July 4

**Recitation**  
Artist: Pragya Laboni  
Venue: ICC, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1  
Date: July 1  
Time: 6:30pm

**Fete de la Musique**  
Organiser: Alliance Française de Dhaka  
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhaka University  
Date: June 30-July 1

**National Recitation Festival**  
Venue: National Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 26-July 2  
Time: 4pm onwards

**Solo Art Exhibition**  
Artist: Mustapha Khalid Palash  
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, R-7 A, H-40, Dhanmondi  
Date: June 17-July 1  
Time: 11am-6pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Meraj Fakir-er Maa  
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 30  
Time: 7pm

**Theatre**  
Play: Chaka  
Troupe: Bun Theatre  
Venue: Experimental Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy  
Date: June 30

**Musical Programme and CD Launch**  
Featuring songs of RA Roy and Atal Prasad Sen  
Venue: Chhayanaut Sangkriti Bhavan, Dhanmondi

# Shaheed Munier Chowdhury Remembered



A scene from the play "Dando". PHOTO: MUMET M.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy arranged a memorial programme in honour of Shaheed Munier Chowdhury on June 28. The programme was held at the Studio Theatre Hall of the academy. A discussion and staging of Munier Chowdhury's play "Dando" were the highlights of the programme.

Chowdhury's student Professor Shamsuzzaman Khan, and Professor Israfil Shaheen of Department of Theatre, Dhaka University, spoke on the life and works of the personality.

Currently the Director General of Bangla Academy, Professor Khan, termed Chowdhury as "one of the finest teachers he had studied under." He also called Chowdhury "a progressive man." "His way of teaching literature was comprehensive. His ability to explain subject matters always mesmerised me," said Professor Khan.

Liaquat Ali Lucky, director general of Shilpakala Academy, presided over the discussion. Ali Ahmed, officer of the academy, gave the welcome speech.

After the discussion, the play was staged. Directed by Mohammad Jasmuddin, the play was a comedy addressing morals. The story follows a thief who breaks into a house

every night and overhears the elderly couple living in it. The husband accuses the wife of having extramarital affair with the family doctor, while the wife accuses him of pursuing a relationship with another woman.

Saki Farzana, Bidyut Sarkar and Mahub Liton played the central characters. Faze Rabbi designed the set, light and costume.

Shaheed Munier Chowdhury was born on November 27, 1925. Chowdhury attended Aligarh Muslim University and studied English Literature for his bachelor's degree in 1946, and master's at the Dhaka University in 1947. He completed his second MA in Bangla in 1954, and third in Linguistics in 1958 from Harvard University.

Chowdhury started his teaching career at Brojodal College in Khulna in 1947. He joined Dhaka University in 1950 and worked both English and Bengali between 1950 and 1971.

Chowdhury actively participated in the Language Movement (1952), and was imprisoned by the Pakistan government. He wrote the famous symbolic drama, "Kobor", during his imprisonment.

On December 14, 1971 Munier Chowdhury, along with other Bengali intellectuals, was abducted from his house and executed by the Pakistani army and its Bengali collaborators.

# Bankim Chandra: The First Prominent Bengali Novelist

Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay is considered one of the greatest novelists of the sub-continent. Bengali novel practically began with him. He is widely regarded as a key figure in literary renaissance of Bengal as well as undivided India. Some of his writings, including novels, essays and commentaries, were a break away from the traditional verse-oriented writings, and provided an inspiration for authors.

June 27 marked the 173rd birth anniversary of the litterateur. Bankim Chandra was born in the village Kanthalpara in Naihati, in an orthodox Bengali Brahmin family, to Jadab Chandra Chattopadhyay and Durga Debi. He was educated at the Mohsin College in Hooghly and later at the Presidency College, graduating with a degree in Arts in 1857. He was one of the first two graduates of the University of Calcutta. He later obtained a degree in Law as well, in 1869.

He was appointed as Deputy Collector of Jessore. Bankim Chandra went on to become a Deputy Magistrate, retiring from government service in 1891. His years at work were peppered with incidents that brought him into conflict with the ruling British. However, he was made a Companion, Order of the Indian Empire in 1894.

Following the model of Ishwarchandra Gupta, Bankim Chandra began his literary

career as a writer of verse. His first fiction to appear in print was "Rajmohan's Wife". Noted poet and essayist Rabiul Hossain said about the literary icon, "Often referred to as the first modern novelist in the sub-continent, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay fused the formal, Sanskritised Bengali with the colloquial/spoken language to forge a prose that everyone could grasp."

Renowned poet and essayist Zahid Haider said, "Bankim's novels are informative, entertaining and well composed. They can be categorised into three genres: historical romances, novels highlighting nationalist fervour, and those reflecting the socio-political and economic conditions in 19th century Bengal."

Novelist and short story writer Professor Harunuzzaman said, "The first successful Bengali novelist, Bankim Chandra Chattopadhyay's works are very significant for the socio-political history of Bengal. For, his works called for the rise of Hindu nationalism, and as history has revealed, had cast an impenetrable gap between Hindu and Muslim Bengal".

Veteran essayist Ahmed Sofa wrote in a literary journal, "Bankim and some other conservative 19th century thinkers had often sent their contemporary readers on the lunatic fringe and

sparked many acts of communal violence". "Kapalkundala" (1866) was Bankim's first major publication. The heroine of this novel was modelled partly after Kalidasa's Shakuntala and partly Shakespeare's Miranda. However, the partial similarities are only inferential analysis by critics, and Bankim's heroine may be completely original.

In "Krishnakanter Will" (1878) Bankim produced a complex plot. In that complexity, critics saw resemblance of Western novels. His final novel, "Sitaram" (1886), tells the story of a local Hindu lord, torn between his wife and the woman he desires, but unable to attain, making a series of blunders and taking arrogant, self-destructive decisions.

One of the aims of Bankim was to interest people in science and in the progress of the society and country. It was a time when educated Bengalis preferred speaking English instead of their own language. Bankim wanted to foster the love of the mother tongue in the educated Bengalis, and to make them share their knowledge with others through their language.

Bankim Chandra passed away on April 8, 1894.

Compiled by Staff Correspondent



# Satyajit Ray through the lens of Amanul Haq

TAKIR HOSSAIN

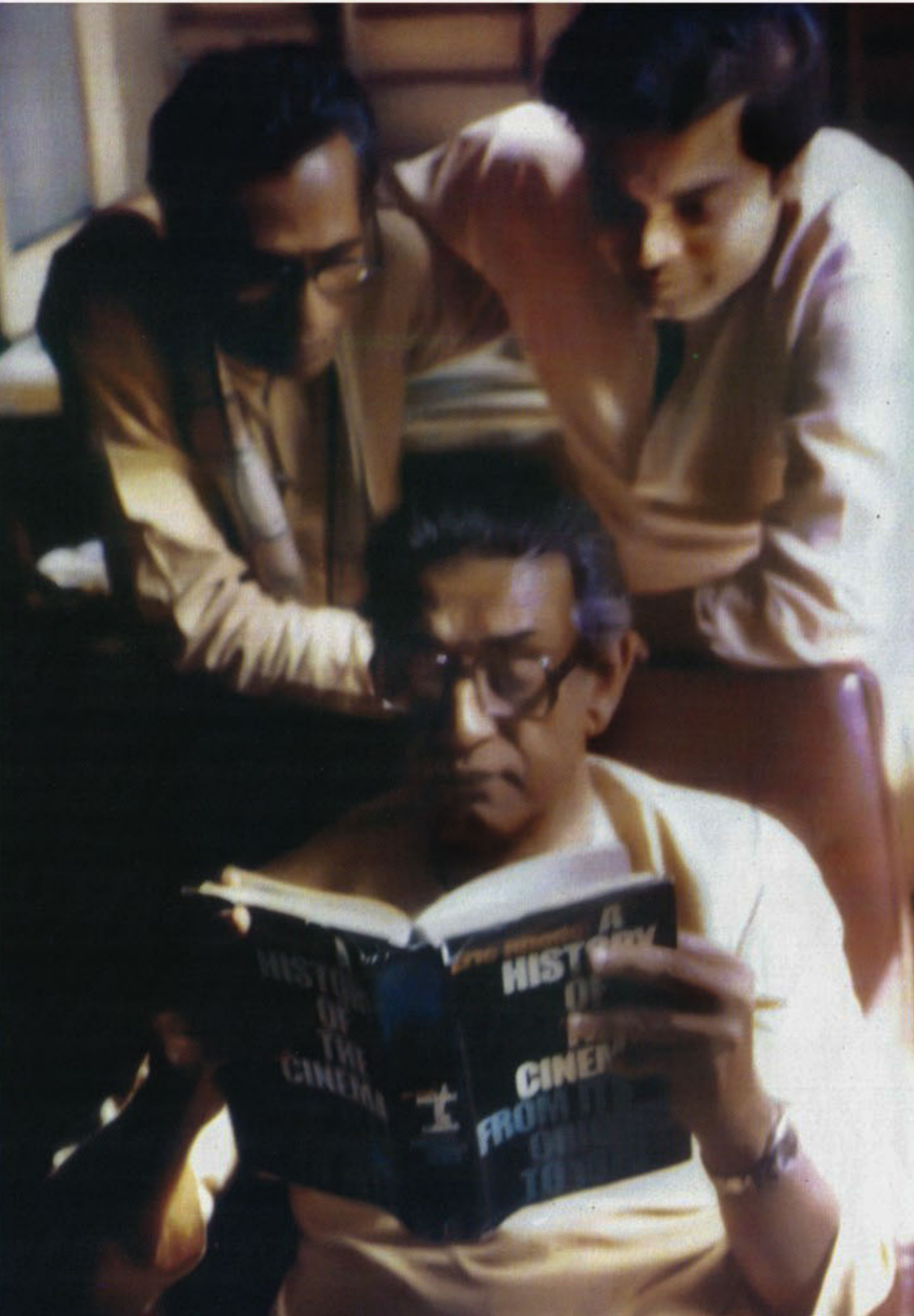
Veteran Bangladeshi photographer Amanul Haq was quite close to legendary filmmaker Satyajit Ray and declared that Ray was his guru. A leading publishing house, Sahitya Prokash, has recently published a photo album, titled "Prosongo Satyajit". The album features many rare images of the iconic figure shot by Haq. The photographer's informative texts accompanying the images add another dimension to this publication. Images depict the workaholic Ray's moods and expressions: at times solemn, and at others immersed in creative work, or just occupied with mundane chores.

Ray's presence on a number of film sets and shooting spots has also been highlighted. The fact that the globally renowned helmer was a family man has also been focused on in the album. Some of the snaps reveal Ray's close association with Kali Banarjee, Ustad Ali Akbar Khan, Chidananda Das Gupta, Subhash Mukhopadhyay, Ajit Kumar Guha, Marie Siton, Madhabi Mukherjee, Chhabi Biswas and other famed cultural personalities.

"In the mid '50s, I moved to Calcutta (Kolkata) from Dhaka and met Subhash Mukhopadhyay. Subhashada was very close to Satyajit Ray. He introduced me to Ray and I showed him my photographs. Ray told me that he had seen the images in one of the earlier issues of 'Notun Shahityo'. This intrigued me, and encouraged me to work with him," Haq reminisces. The low profile and introverted Haq goes on to say, "In my view, Satyajit Ray was a complete human being. Such individuals are rare."

In a journal, Ray wrote, "I have known Amanul Haq for more than 20 years as a photographer of imagination, skill and enterprise. Over the years, he has kept pace with technical developments and has used them to further his aims as a creative interpreter of actuality. For over a generation, he has virtually recorded every aspect of life in his country, revealing a deep love for Bengali life and culture in all its manifestations. He also has the potential to portray it in film, in documentary form, having been a keen student of the cinema and an observer of my working methods in the early '60s."

Bijoya Ray, Satyajit's wife, was greatly appreciative of Haq's talents. In her book, "Amader Kotha", she wrote, "A young man named Amanul Haq came to our house in



Clockwise (from top-left): Amanul Haq, Sandip Ray (son of Satyajit Ray) and the filmmaker.

1959. His good manners won us over. Manik (Satyajit) liked him and allowed Amanul to photograph him. Amanul became very close to us, even though for a short period."

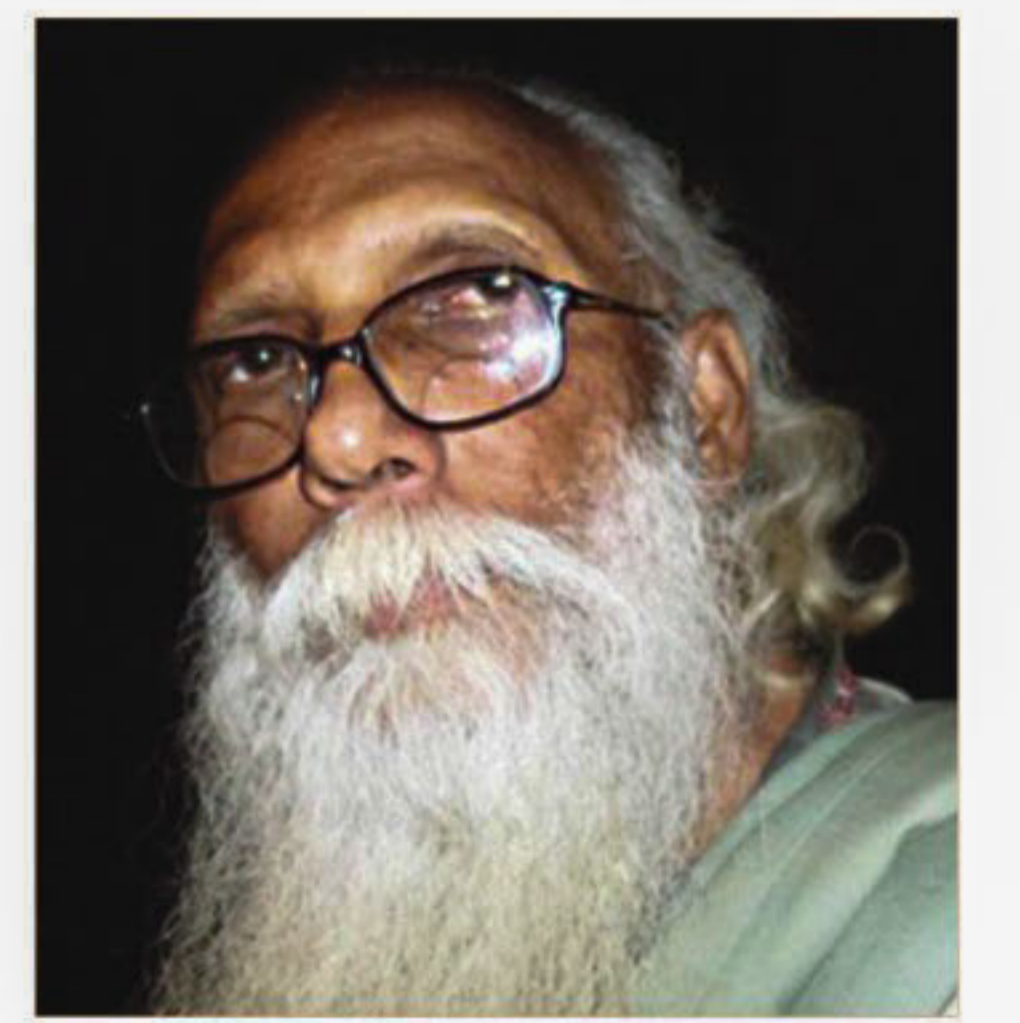
British film critic Marie Seton wrote a book on Ray, titled "Portrait of A Director: Satyajit Ray". Recalling her meeting with Haq, she wrote, "Early in March 1962, and for approximately a year, I saw a considerable amount of Mr. Amanul

Haq and his work. I met him with Mr. Satyajit Ray in Calcutta when I went there to stay for the purpose of writing a book on Mr. Ray's work. I am very deeply impressed by the range of his (Haq's) work, his compositions and the way he captures authenticity at a single moment. I think Mr. Haq is a very outstanding photographer. Mr. Satyajit Ray has the utmost admiration for Mr. Haq over a period of many years."

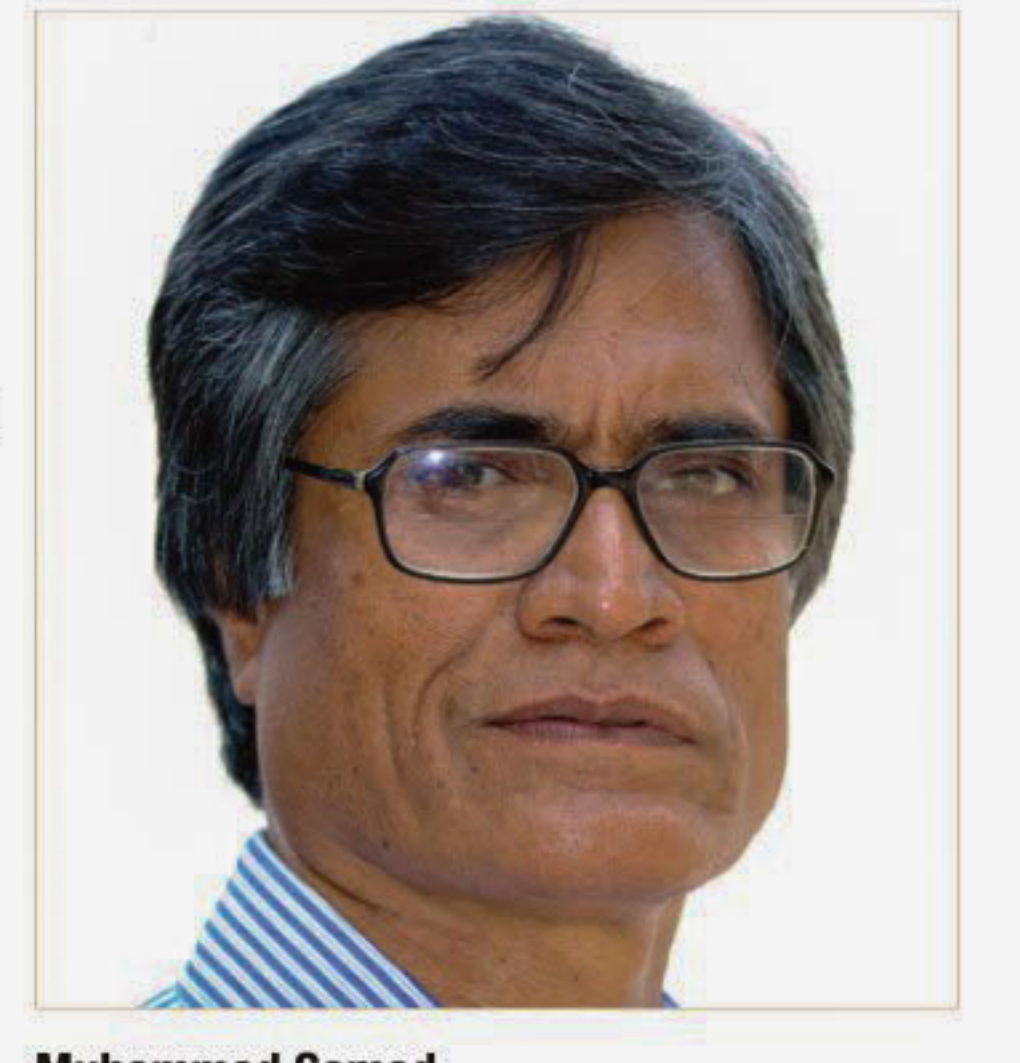
# Fobana Bangladesh Conference to begin

A CORRESPONDENT

The Fobana Bangladesh Conference, popularly known as "Fobana Shyamalan", will begin on July 1 and will continue till July 3. The conference will be held at Hilton Crystal City in Washington D.C. This is considered to be one of the largest cultural festivals for expatriate Bangladeshis. The festival will feature seminars, photo and painting exhibitions, poetry recitation, musical soiree, art competition for children, staging of plays and more. The conference will be dedicated to the martyrs of the Liberation War. On the occasion, seminars on national and international issues and a trade fair featuring various Bangladeshi and foreign commodities will be held at the venue.



Nirmalendu Goon



Muhammad Samad

# Actress Michelle Yeoh blacklisted, deported from Myanmar

Authorities in Myanmar have deported Hollywood actress Michelle Yeoh who plans to play democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi in an upcoming film, an immigration official said on Tuesday.

Yeoh, a Malaysian known for playing Chinese spy Wai Lin alongside Pierce Brosnan in the 1997 James Bond film "Tomorrow Never Dies" among other high profile roles, was detained on arrival at Yangon's international airport on June 22 and sent out of the country on the next flight.

"She was deported on the same day because she is on a blacklist," the official told Reuters, requesting anonymity because she was not authorised to talk to the media.

Yeoh, 48, has been in Thailand, Britain and France filming scenes for the film "The Lady", as Suu Kyi is known in Myanmar. The film is due to be released in October.

Suu Kyi, a Nobel laureate and figurehead of Myanmar's fight against military dictatorship, met Yeoh to discuss the film at her lakeside home in Yangon last December, three weeks after her release from a seven year stint of house arrest.

"The Lady" is a love story about Suu Kyi and her late British husband Michael Aris, and details their long separation while Suu Kyi was detained in 1989.

Aris was denied visas to visit Suu Kyi and was diagnosed with cancer in 1997. She refused to leave



Myanmar to visit him, fearing the ruling junta would block her return. Aris died in 1999.

A dancer and actress known for performing her own stunts in action movies, Yeoh was nominated for BAFTA award for best actress for her role in Ang Lee's 2000 box office hit "Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon" which won four Oscars.

# Item Boys The latest rage in Bollywood

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After "item girls", it's now "item boy" time in Bollywood.

Two leading actors of Hindi cinema are doing item numbers in their forthcoming movies.

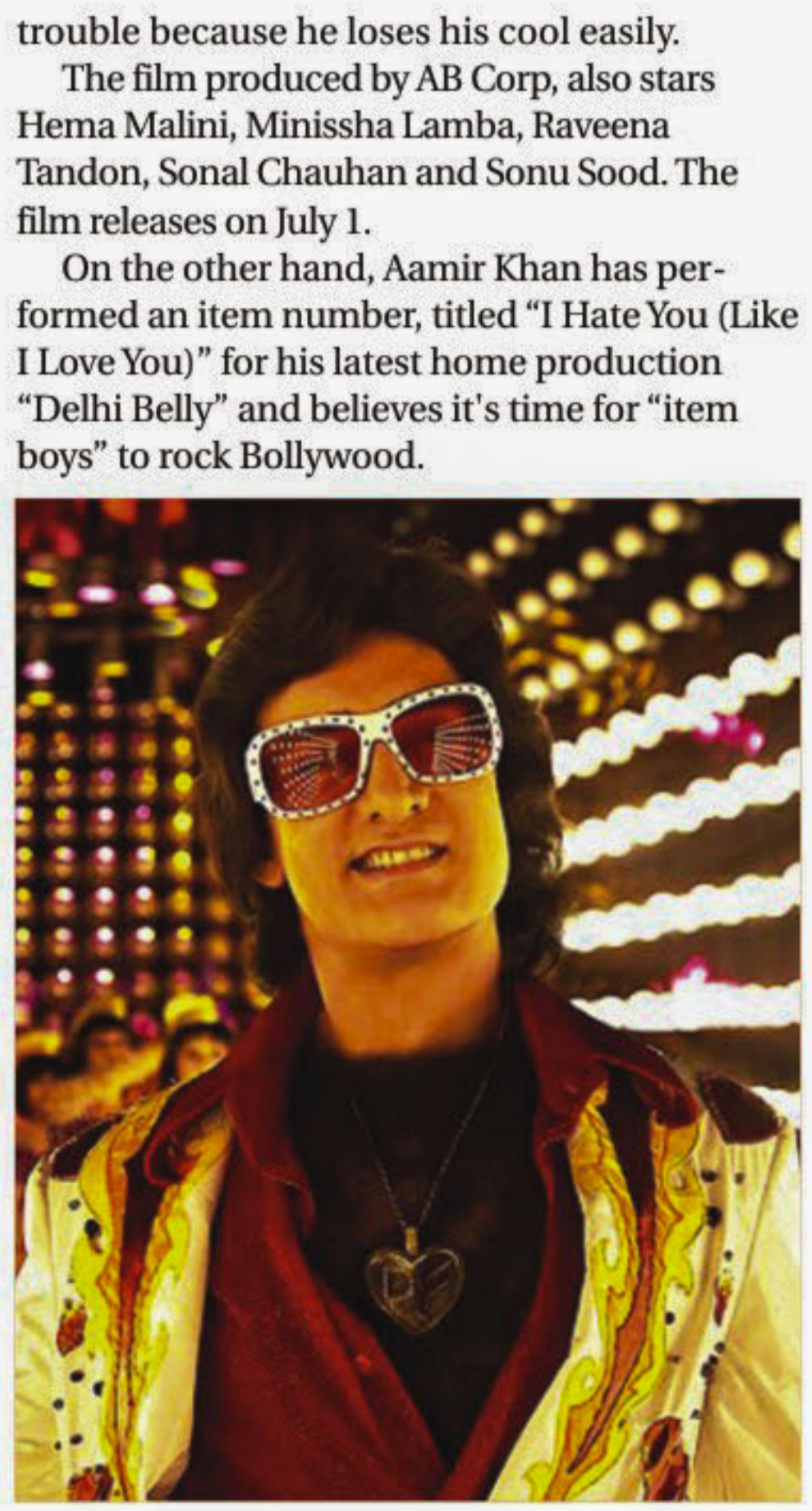
Amitabh Bachchan, 68, and Aamir Khan, 46, are playing "item boy" in "Buddhad Hoga Tera Baap" and "Delhi Belly", respectively.

Bachchan will be seen in "Buddhad Hoga Tera Baap" and says that he was desperate to be called as an "item boy" for long. A song titled "Go Meera" in the film will see Big B in a colorful and flamboyant avatar, dancing to his own golden hits like "Khayeeke Paan Banaraswala", "Pag Ghunghroo Baandh Meera Naachi Thi", "Rang Barse", "Sara Zamana" among others.

Asked whether he can be called the new item boy, he said, "All these years, I have been desperately waiting to be called an item boy. Please call me that. I feel with this song my wish has come true...and I am satisfied."

The actor, along with his son Abhishek, who is the producer of the film, unveiled the first look of the song "Go Meera" in Mumbai recently.

Directed by Puri Jagannath, the film is a romantic comedy about an angry old man played by Amitabh Bachchan who gets into



trouble because he loses his cool easily.

The film produced by AB Corp, also stars Hema Malini, Minishha Lamba, Raveena Tandon, Sonal Chauhan and Sonu Sood. The film releases on July 1.

On the other hand, Aamir Khan has performed an item number, titled "I Hate You (Like I Love You)" for his latest home production "Delhi Belly" and believes it's time for "item boys" to rock Bollywood.

Aamir, who will be seen in a retro look, aping veteran actor Mithun Chakraborty as "Disco Fighter" in the much anticipated item number, says he is waiting for Salman Khan's comments on it.

"I will show the song to all my friends. I am waiting for Salman...my close and a good friend to comment. I think the 'Dabangg' Salman is far ahead of me in doing item songs," Aamir said.

"I would like to say that I have not hurt anyone's sentiments. It's a tribute to the disco era of 1980s. My hair-do is inspired by Amitabh Bachchan and I sport chest hair, just like Anil Kapoor. The dance moves are similar to Mithun Chakraborty and Govinda. And my attire will be a mix of everyone," Aamir said.

He said he had approached almost every actress and even item girl Rakhi Sawant but all of them avoided his calls and hence he decided to turn "item boy".

"Delhi Belly", an adult comedy directed by Abhinav Deo, has been produced by Aamir Khan Productions and stars Imran Khan, Vir Das, Kunal Roy Kapur, Poorna Jagannathan and Shenaz Treasurywala.

# Laila Hasan to attend dance conference in Seoul



Seasoned Bangladeshi dancer Laila Hasan has been selected as a member of Asian Dance Committee, according to press release.

Initiated by the Ministry of Culture, Sports and Tourism of South Korea, the committee is a platform for artistes representing the Asian states.

President of Bangladesh Dancers' Organisation, Laila Hasan, is attending Asian Dance Committee's conference in Seoul, South Korea (June 29-30) as a representative of Bangladesh.

Important decisions regarding the policies to preserve traditional dance forms of Asian countries will be made at the conference. Moreover, issues related to seminars and training courses will also be discussed at the conference.

Laila Hasan left the country for Seoul on June 27.

<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	10:40 Bangla Feature Film 05:15 Islami Sawal O Jawab 06:15 Glamour Touch 08:00 Drama Serial: Not Out 11:00 Drama: Duti Mitru	<b>ETV</b>	04:30 The Aim 05:25 Shanskriti Shomachar 07:50 Qube Junction 09:30 Ekushey-er Chokh 10:10 Drama: Swagno Bastab Ebong Dipannita
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	01:05 Ebong Cinemar Gaan 03:10 Hridoye Mati O Manusher Daak 06:00 Chhayaongkar 07:50 Khude Gaanraj 09:35 Shees-der Mahajuddha	<b>Diganta TV</b>	03:30 Diganta Omushandhan 06:30 Inside Story 08:00 Drama 09:25 Pothey Prantroye 11:05 Diganta Music Hour (Live)
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	11:05 Shokal Belar Roddur 02:20 Chhetri Shadakalo 03:05 Drama Serial: Swagnochura 06:05 Shyamol Bangla 09:05 Media Bhobon	<b>Z Studio</b>	11:00 Fun With Dick and Jane 03:45 The Peacemaker 07:00 Mission Impossible 09:30 Hotel Part 2 11:30 Unbreakable Star Movies

<b>abc radio FM 90.2</b>	06:00 Bhowe Janaly 09:00 Mahottor Shoneye 12:00 Darun Dupurey 03:00 Duranto Bikelay 05:00 Shondhorarar 07:00 Shejer Maja 09:00 Raat-er Akashey 11:00 Golper Shech Nel Radio Footi	<b>RADIO</b>	10:00 Morning Express 12:00 My Time 01:00 No Tension 04:00 Dhaka Calling 09:00 Night Rider 01:00 Back to Back music RADIO TODAY FM 65.5 08:00 Good Morning Dhaka 12:00 Today's Adda 04:00 U Turn
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**Shera-der Mahajuddha**  
On CHANNEL i at 09:35pm  
Talent Hunt  
Judges: Amzad Hossain, Hassan, Moushumi, Rizza

**Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone**  
On HBO at 09:30pm  
Genre: Adventure/  
Family  
Cast: Daniel Radcliffe, Rupert

**Swapno Bastab**  
Ebong Dipannita  
On ETV at 10:10pm  
Single Episode TV  
Play  
Cast: Emon, Tarin

<b>Rtv</b>	01:10 Bangla Feature Film 05:30 Ananda Dhara 08:20 Cookery Show 09:50 Drama Serial: Neel 11:30 Tomar Jommo Amar E Gaan	03:25 Sorcerer's Apprentice 05:20 Jerk Theory 07:00 Prince Of Persia: The Sands of Time 09:00 Proposal 10:50 Daybreakers
<b>HBO</b>	11:45 Coming to America 02:15 Terminator Salvation 04:30 The Skeleton Key 07:15 Transporter 3 09:30 Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone	
<b>ntv</b>	10:05 Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan 01:05 Shastra Protidin 04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey 09:00 Amaro Gaithe Ichhe Holo 11:30 Grand Music	11:30 India's Most Desirable Las Vegas 08:30 Two And A Half Men 09:00 The Simpsons 11:30 Modern Family
<b>Desh TV</b>	04:30 Durpath 06:30 Sanskriti-er Sharadesh 07:45 Style and Fashion 10:30 Desh-i Golpo 11:55 Drama: Gogoly	<b>National Geographic Channel</b> 02:30 True Stories 07:30 I Didn't Know That 09:30 Mega Factories 11:30 Air Crash Investigation
<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	10:30 Bangla Feature Film 04:15 Sharashori Doctor 05:15 Boishakhi CNN 06:20 The Music Train 12:30 Tara O Jyotnar Galpo	<b>Discovery Channel</b> 03:30 Dinosaur Planet 07:30 Earth

<b>ATN Bangla</b>	08:40pm Ogniroth 09:20pm Haat-er Reikha Kotha Bakery 05:30pm Shimana Chharye	<b>DRAMA SERIAL</b>	06:00pm Mohallar Bhui 09:50pm Oloshpur 08:15pm Raghobha 09:45pm Shobuj Nakkhoro Desh TV 08:15pm Gohinye 09:45pm Sat Kahon Boishakhi TV
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<b>RTV</b>	News (Bangla) at 8:00 am 2:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm, News (English) at 10:00am, 4:00 pm, 10:30 pm, Late Night News (Bangla and English) 11:30 pm. (To be telecast on all Bangla channels). CHANNEL-i News (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:40 am, 2:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 8:40 am, 2:30 pm, 8:00 pm, 10:30 pm, 12:30 am ATN BANGLA NEWS (Bangla): 7:00 am, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm, 1:00 am, 4:00 am 01:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm News (English): 9:00 am, 6:00 pm	<b>NEWS BULLETIN</b>	BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 7:30am, 1:30pm, 5:00pm, 7:15pm, 10:30pm, News Headlines (Bangla) at 10:00am, 12:00pm, 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, 01:30pm, 3:00pm, 4:00pm, 5:00pm, 7:00pm, 9:00pm, 11:00pm
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<b>ATN BANGLA</b>	12:30am Lead News 01:00am Vision 2020	<b>TALK SHOW</b>	11:25pm Tail of the Week Rtv 10:40am Tarikalap 07:40pm Our Democracy
<b>CHANNEL i</b>	09:45am Trita Matra 12:30pm Tarika Kothon 06:20pm Bobahullo	<b>Boishakhi TV</b>	12:10am Ei Shomoy 12:00am Zero Hour ETV
<b>BANGLAVISION</b>	10:10am Front Line		