

TRAVELS THROUGH LIBERTY



Nasiruddin Yousuff

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of Bangladesh's emergence as a free nation, Star Arts & Entertainment will present a kaleidoscope of views, observations and quotes related to the Liberation War, national achievements, lapses, need of the hour and much more -- from cultural personalities, all the way till December 16.

Nasiruddin Yousuff, theatre personality and filmmaker

I believe, in the cultural sector, our theatre has made the most significant achievements, particularly as far as writing and practice are concerned. The late Selim Al Deen successfully made a transi-



A scene from "Guerrilla".

sition from the standard colonial format and style that had been practiced here for 200 years to a form that is close to our roots. Al Deen incorporated indigenous theatres forms and created a new urban outline that goes against the conventional Western style. Our theatre has also witnessed the brilliance of creative titans like Abdullah Al Mamun and SM Solaiman.

Cinema, on the other hand, hasn't had any major success in last four decades. Our contemporary lives and struggles haven't been deftly reflected in

Bangladeshi films. Sure, every now and then there are random sparks of genius like "Shurjo Dighol Bari" or "Matir Moina", but these are not enough. I don't think that Bangladeshi cinema has made any progress in the last 40 years. We can't blame the filmmakers alone; the successive governments haven't done much to develop our film industry. The number of movie theatres has gone down; most of the ones that exist are in a sad shape.

Our art and literature have evolved. However, one particular regret that I have is that we don't have any novel or

film based on the Language Movement. I think Language Movement decided our fate as a nation.

I believe that history is written by the powerful. History cannot lead people, culture can. Because we [the generation that has fought and seen the Liberation War] have failed to create films and literature that see the war from different angles and perspectives, any experimental work of art on the subject from this [post-war] generation will face objection. But I do think we need atypical narratives.

Victory Day Theatre Fest begins today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

A weeklong theatre festival organised by Mahakal Natyasampraday begins today at Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy. Titled "Muktijuddher Sangskritik Utshab", the festival will mark the celebration of the month of Victory.

The festival will begin at the National Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy, while plays will also be staged at the Experimental and Studio Theatre Halls of the academy. Information and Cultural Minister Abul Kalam Azad is expected to inaugurate the festival as chief guest.

Nine local and two Indian troupes will stage plays at the festival. Two plays -- Dhaka Theatre's "Binodini" and Mahakal's "Ghum Nei" -- will have their 100th shows during the fest.

Local troupes to stage plays include Mahakal, Loko Natyadal, Nagarik Natyangan, Prachyanat, Theatre Art Unit, Shunnon and Shubachan. Prachyanat and Theatre Art Unit will stage "Circus Circus" and "Shomoyer Proyojonee" respectively. Participating Indian troupes are Aneek (Kolkata) and Cultural Campaign (Tripura).

Apart from "Ghum Nei", Mahakal will also stage its recent production "Nishimon Bisharjan". Aneek and Cultural Campaign will stage "Tatapi" and "Court Martial", respectively.

The festival will also feature seminars, staging of Liberation War themed plays by children's theatre troupes, songs, recitations, screening of films, photography exhibition and reminiscence of the war by sector commanders.

Apart from staging plays at the festival, both Indian troupes will hold several shows in and outside Dhaka.

Eshita directs a tele-film on Liberation War

A CORRESPONDENT

Actress Eshita has debuted as a TV play director. Recently she has written and directed a tele-film on the Liberation War, titled *Bela Sheshey*. Shooting of the tele-film has been completed. Azizul Hakim, Tania Ahmed and Tahsin essay the main roles in the tele-film, which is being aired on Channel i in December.

"I had thought of writing something for a long time. Later my thoughts convinced me to write a tele-film. I am really pleased to have written a piece on the Liberation War," said Eshita.

Besides direction, Eshita is also immersed in acting. She plays the protagonist in TV serials "Roopkatha" (aired on ntv) and "Chand Phul Omaboshya" that goes on air on ATN Bangla.

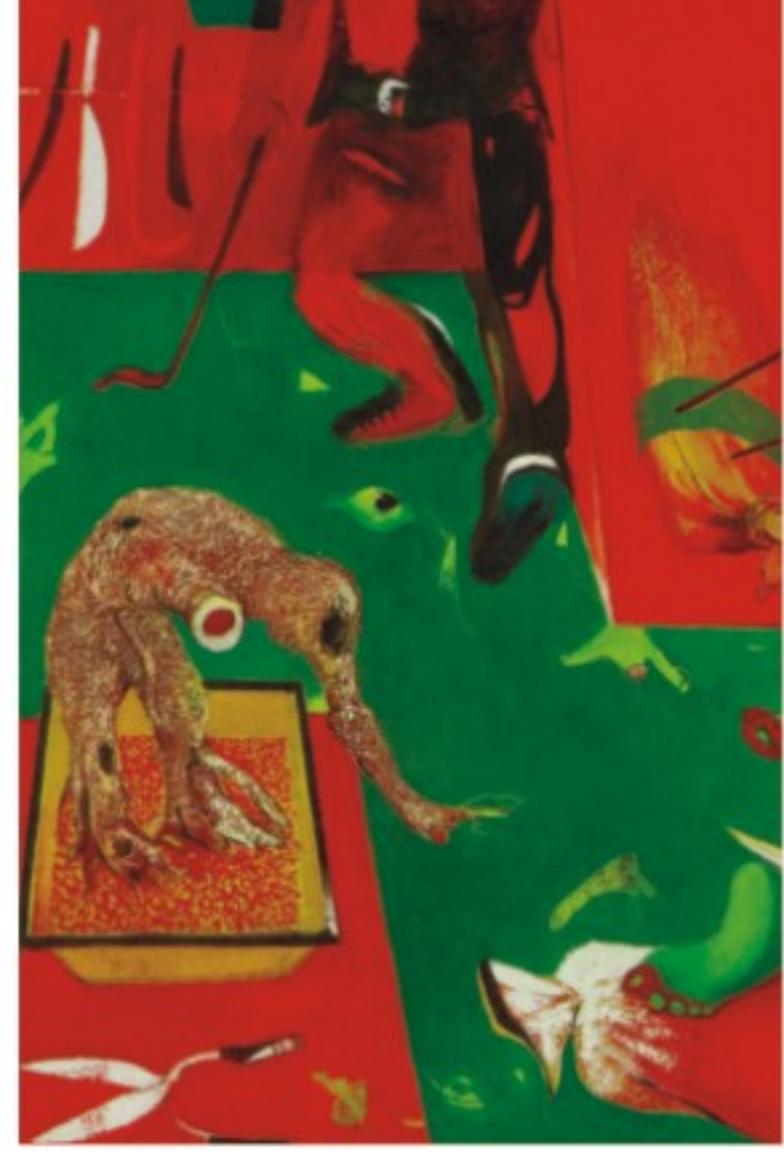
A call for simplicity in life

Mixed media exhibition of Sanjib Datta

FAYZA HAQ

Sanjib Datta, 51, shaven headed and wearing rectangular spectacles, has displayed his mixed media works at a solo exhibition at the Dhaka Art Centre. He combines surrealism with symbolism to drive home his message. Like most artists in Bangladesh, Datta holds up the mirror to the bitter realities of the current socio-economic and political scenario. His paintings have a soul-pitch, like many Chittagong-based artists, such as Laila Nazlee Mansur, Nilofer Chaman and Alok Roy.

Datta's protagonists are men with wings and pixie-faces. At times they appear like Spiderman going through the rubbish of the city. All around are the overwhelming concrete jungle. The high-rises often bear glass fronts, as if the tall buildings are cages made of cement and glass. The humans outside are adult *Tokai*, who rummage the rubbish bins for syringes, which may have been used to administer drugs. The raw manner of drawing attention to the misdeeds is startling, as is often the case with avant-garde



Painting by Sanjib Datta.

artists.

The figures can be seen as futuristic, or borrowed from science fiction. The creatures on the canvas are like sentinels, who warn mankind to arrest material progress at the cost of cultural values. Industrial and material progresses are not all there is to life, believes Datta, like most artists of the 20th and 21st century. At times the winged creatures are shown to literally attack the Bangladeshi Taka notes,

almost like honeybees, geared to collect materials. "People have lost their dreams of living in peace and harmony, in their quest for material progress," says Datta, who laments the loss of simplicity and harmony in contemporary existence.

In presenting overt shapes of perfume bottles along with female models, with their outthrust bosoms, he highlights the boldness but emptiness of contemporary, urban living. The male figures reveal an undue exposure of their bodies.

Datta is a modern artist, out to shock the viewer into realising the hedonism and corruption around -- where there is laundering of black money and undue crashes in the stock market. Sure, money and material comforts are essential in life, Datta says, even as he questions, "Should an individual forget his roots and indulge in selfish hedonism?" Unwanted elements are thrown into the rubbish bins, which are later found in the garbage by the cleaning man. The artist delineates this ugliness in graphic details to shake us out of our complacency.

Premiere of Karigor

OUR CORRESPONDENT, Barisal

The premiere show of the full-length Bangla film, "Karigor" - The Circumciser- based on a story from the Liberation War was held recently at Aswini Kumar Hall.

The movie is directed by noted writer, journalist and filmmaker Anwar Shahadat. The cast includes Rokeya Prachi, Rani Sarkar, Sushama Sirker, Joyonto Acharya and Masum Aziz.

Abu Hena Muhammad Rahmatul Munim, Barisal Divisional Commissioner, journalist Shafiq Rahman, Anwar Shahadat, director of the film and poet Sarkar Amin delivered speeches at the inaugural ceremony of the show.

The story of the movie revolves around a 'Karigor', Mutualib, who lives in a remote area in the southern Barisal region of the country.

In 1971, the circumciser lied to the Pakistani army to save thousands of Hindus. The goal of the army operation was to kill the Hindus as 'enemies of Pakistan' and 'miscreants'. Around three million people of Bangladesh were killed in the Liberation War.

A fatwa decreed by fanatics outlaws the circumciser Mutualib for the blasphemy, he commits in 1971. Dramatic events follow, which change Mutualib's life forever.

Nabanna festival in Magura

HOSSAIN SERAJ, Magura

With the harvesting of Aman paddy, comes the Nabanna (harvesting) festival. The people of rural areas in Magura are now busy ushering in the age-old traditional festival of Bengal.

As part of the gaiety, rural denizens and local socio-cultural organisations are holding various cultural events in villages: mela (fair), Jhaphankhela (a demonstration by snake charmers), jatrapala (folk drama), lathikhela (mock fight with sticks) and musical soirees featuring 'Kobigaan' (dueling bard).

Recently, villagers of Pukhuria in Magura sadar upazila held a day-long programme which featured a mela, bichargaan and lathikhela.

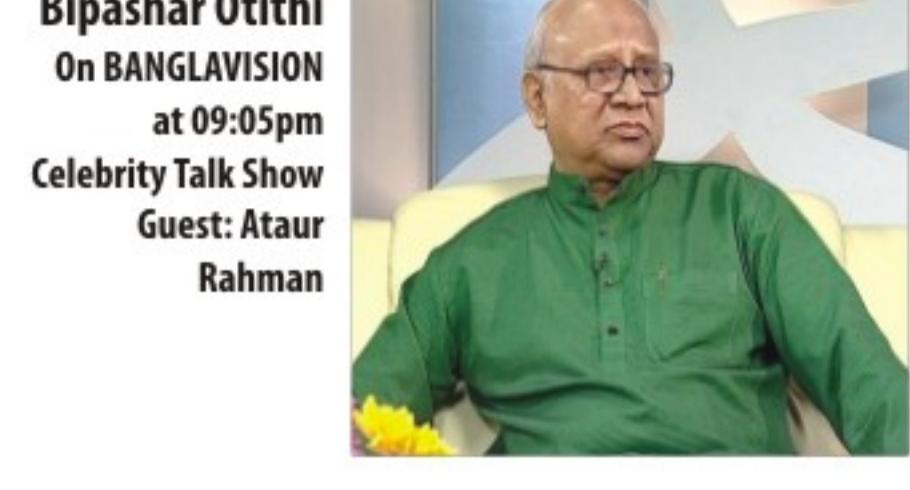
"We organise the event every year mainly to save our age-old tradition from extinction as our Bengali culture has been confronted with challenges of late," said Nazrul Islam Sardar, one of the organisers of the event.

Villagers of Bothiakhali, Vitasayee, Barashia, Parla, Moghi, Sitarampur, Chandpur, Bhaina and Tengakhali in Magura sadar upazila also held similar programmes in the villages where hundreds of enthusiastic people congregated.

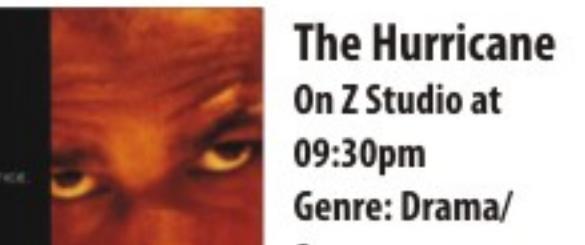


BTV	10:02	Bangla Feature Film
10:05	05:30	Barney
01:30	06:30	Bangladesh Priyo
(Live)		Bangladesh
10:25	08:00	Tele-film
11:05	11:00	Tomay Gaan Shonabo
ATN BANGLA	11:30	Ekushey-er Business
10:40	05:40	Sports Plus
04:20	07:50	Neel Paerar Gaan
06:15	09:30	Ekushey-er Chokh
11:00	10:10	Drama
CHANNEL i	01:05	Ebong Cinemar Gaan
01:30	02:40	Hridoyer Gaan
02:40	03:00	Hridoyer Mati O
	03:00	Manusher Daak
03:30	03:30	Bangla Feature Film
09:35	09:30	Drama Serial: Oti
	12:10	Lobhe Tati Nosto
ETV		Flyboys
Z Studio	01:30	Transformers
02:40	04:35	Mission Impossible II
07:15	07:15	Kiss of the Dragon
09:30	09:30	The Hurricane
12:10	12:10	Flyboys

RADIO	abc radio FM 89.2	10:00	Morning Express
09:00	Mukhorito Jiboney	12:00	My Time
12:00	Darun Dupurey	01:00	No Tension
03:00	Duranto Bikeley	04:00	Dhaka Calling
05:00	Shondhataro	09:00	Night Rider
07:00	Shajer Maya	12:00	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
09:00	Raat-er Akashay	06:00	Green FM
11:00	Golper Shesh Nei	08:00	Good Morning Dhaka
Radio Foorti	12:00	12:00	Today's Adda
07:30	Hello Dhaka	04:00	U Turn



Bipashar Otithi
On BANGLAVISION
at 09:05pm
Celebrity Talk Show
Guest: Ataur Rahman



Smile
On Rtv at 11:30pm
Single Episode TV
Play
Cast: Shojol, Sarika



BANGLAVISION	11:05	Shokal Belar Roodr	02:55	Letters To Juliet
02:20	04:45	Cinebit Shadakalo	04:45	Skyline
05:20	08:00	Porikhabha-Prostuti	08:00	The Walking Dead
06:05	09:50	Shyamol Bangla	09:50	Knight & Day
09:05	11:45	Bipashar Ottithi	11:45	Flatliners
Rtv	01:05	Bangla Feature Film	02:20	The Blair Witch Project
05:30	04:20	Ananda Dhara	04:20	The Lovely Bones
08:20	07:30	Cookery Show	07:30	Barb Wire
09:50	09:30	Glamour World	09:30	Crocodile
11:30	11:30	Drama: Smile	11:30	Cop Out
ntv	10:05	Kichhu Kotha Kichhu Gaan	11:30	Star World
04:10	03:30	Janar Achhey Bolar Achhey	03:30	Love2 Hate U
06:15	09:30	Shubho Shondhya	09:30	Necessary Roughness
09:00	10:30	Amaro Gate Ichcha Holo Music U-phone	10:30	Master Chef USA
11:30	11:30	Music U-phone	11:30	The Shield
Desh TV	04:30	Durpath	11:30	The Big Bang Theory
06:30	03:30	Dur Durante	11:30	National Geographic Channel
09:45	09:30	Style and Fashion	11:30	Killer Cats
10:30	10:30	Desh E Galpo	11:30	Super Cars Week
11:55	11:30	Drama: Himghar	11:30	Man hunt
Bangsara Television	09:40	Mitha Tumi Dosh Pipra	11:30	Dangerous Encounters
	08:10pm	Boshakhi TV	11:30	Classified
	08:10pm	Premier Naam Bedona	11:30	Discovery Channel

DRAMA SERIAL	09:05pm	Oloshpur

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