


WHAT'S ON


Musical Soiree
Artist: Firdos Ali
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, R-24, Gulshan-1
Date: May 18; Time: 6:30pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: Motherhood is Unique Lets Make it Safe
Photographer: Naymuzzaman Prince
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 02-23



Open-Air Dance Programme on Tagore
Organiser: Pallavi Dance Centre
Venue: Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed Park (Ladies Park), Rd-83, Gulshan-2



Classical Concert (Instrumental)
Performer: Notos Quartet, Germany
Venue: Berlin Hall, Goethe-Institut, H-10, Rd-9 (New), Dhanmondi
Date: May 24; Time: 7:30pm



Group Art Exhibition
Organiser: Shaka
Venue: Radius Centre, 57, Gulshan Avenue
Date: May 4-18
Time: 10pm-9pm



Photography Exhibition
Title: World Press Photo 12
Venue: Dik Gallery, H-58, R-15A(New), Dhanmondi
Date: April 26-May 18
Time: 3pm-8pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Intiaj Shohag
Venue: Alliance Française de Dhaka, Dhanmondi
Date: May 10-22
Time: 2pm-9pm



Solo Art Exhibition
Artist: Minimal Kanti Das
Venue: Dhaka Art Centre, Dhanmondi
Date: May 18-26
Time: 3pm-8pm




EMON SAHA

THE MUSIC MAN

Emon Saha has followed the footsteps of his father -- the great composer Satya Saha -- to become one of the leading composers and film music directors of our time. Famed for creating many popular tunes, Emon Saha's creativity got a boost from his training under the iconic A.R. Rahman.
In a free-wheeling interview with The Daily Star the music director shared insights into the current music scene and a gamut of other issues. Excerpts:

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Many people claim that contemporary music fails to live up to the high standards set in the past. What is your opinion?

Emon: This is true. Great music emerged during the '60s, '70s and the '80s. Even in the '90s, many memorable songs were made. Over 90 percent of music back then was of a certain standard, compared to only 10 percent of good productions now. All the evergreen songs that are cemented in our hearts and heads were made in the past. So there is no point in denying the allegation.

Is any quality music being made these days?
Emon: The scenario is improving. Much good music is being composed nowadays. Many fresh faces are coming on the scene -- some of them composers, some lyricists and some singers. I do not claim that every new arrival is good, but there are always some who show promise. But instead of appealing to the masses, these new songs rely on specific niches.

In the past, movie tunes used to have mass appeal. Is this true today?

Emon: Songs from films used to be hugely popular among the masses in the past. For example, my father's song "Lokey Boley Raag Naki Anuraag-er Aaina" or Alam Khan's "Orey Neel Doriya" were on the lips of people from all classes. There are hundreds of popular tunes like these that are still remembered fondly, such

as "Jeno Lajuk Lota" or "Amader Deshta Shonopuri". Maybe people have forgotten the names of the movies, but they still remember the music.

What changed?
Emon: Now we cannot capture a wide variety of listeners. The songs do not have universal appeal, causing a divide among listeners. The main damage is being done on music itself.

In the glory years, we saw the assistants to the great movie directors follow their mentors' paths and take up direction themselves. Was this the same for music directors as well?

Emon: It was similar. Satya Saha had Alam Khan, Ahmed Imtiaz Bulbul, Moksud Jamil Mintu as his assistants who were directly involved with music making. But after them no new generation of music directors was created. There were many reasons behind this, but the greatest was the financial one. Everyone is running after money now.

You've been tutored by A.R. Rahman. How much of those lessons have you been able to implement in your work?

Emon: Only 10 percent at best. It's been a year since I returned after taking lessons from A.R. Rahman. The truth is that our country has neither the market, nor the budget to implement the things that I had learned. The background score of a movie requires at least a Taka 10 lakh budget to give the music director a free rein. But in our country, only Taka 20,000 is spent to record music on stock cassettes. I recently did

music for Humayun Ahmed's "Ghetuputro Komola", where I was given full independence and the necessary budget I needed. But this is not the case for other projects. It is not possible to implement and utilise all the lessons I received from the great composer.

What are your current plans?
Emon: I have my own production house, Shorolipi, and I plan to make a movie under its banner this year. I've been planning on bringing out a mixed album, which will be marketed globally. I also aspire to get a higher degree on music from the US.

A number of reality music shows are being made. What role do they play in encouraging new talents?

Emon: There are both positives and negatives for these shows. But luckily, the good aspects outweigh the bad. If we take "Close Up 1" star Salma for example, we wouldn't know about her talents, if it wasn't for the competition. Maybe it would've been confined within her village only.

To what extent are you musically influenced by your father Satya Saha?

Emon: I'm definitely inspired by his music. The influence is always there sub-consciously. Satya Saha is not only my father, but an institution. He is unparalleled in movie music. Many people have followed my father's music, and they have credited him for that. There is nothing wrong in being influenced by great works.

Painter Safiuddin Ahmed on life support

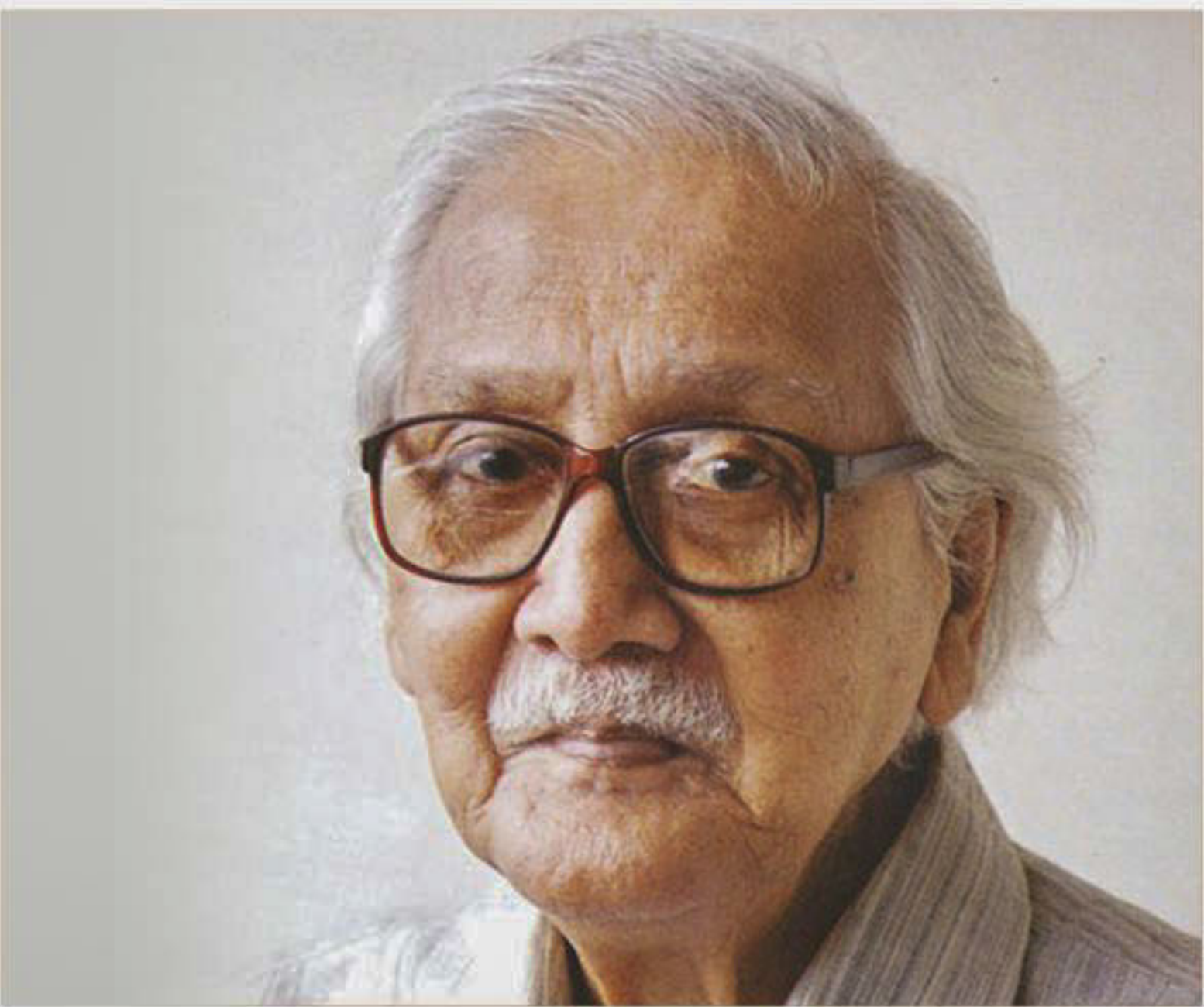
STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Eminent painter Safiuddin Ahmed has been on life support at the city's Square Hospital since Tuesday (May 15) evening. He has been ailing from old age complications. He is 89.

Safiuddin is under the supervision of Dr. Mosaddeque Ahmed (Nephrologist Department) of the hospital. The doctor informed that his condition is very critical.

Safiuddin was born in 1922 in Calcutta (now Kolkata), India. He was a student of Calcutta Government School of Art and graduated from the institute in 1942. After the Partition (1947), Safiuddin left Calcutta for Dhaka, and got involved in a movement to set up the first art institute in the then East Pakistan. He was a friend and colleague of Zainul Abedin, one of the founders of Dhaka Art College.

Some of his outstanding achievements as a young artist included the President's Gold Medal (1945) by Academy of Fine Arts, Calcutta; first prize in the category of black and white in International Contemporary Art Exhibition, New Delhi (1946); first prize in the category of black and white (etching and drawing) in Inter-Asian Art Exhibition in New Delhi (1947) and Patna Maharaja's Gold Medal (1947). He is a proud recipient of the Ekushey Padak and Shadhinota Puroshkar.



Baron Cohen's Dictator storms Cannes, camel in tow



In the film, Baron Cohen plays a fictitious despot of the made-up North African country Wadiya.

REUTERS, Cannes

It took no less than a live camel strolling the promenade in Cannes to steal the show on the film festival's opening day, a feat that comedian Sacha Baron Cohen pulled off with chutzpah on Wednesday.

The British satirist, star of "Borat" and "Bruno," used the novel public relations stunt to draw attention to the U.S. opening of his new film "The Dictator," in which he plays fictitious despot General Aladeen of the made-up North African country Wadiya.

As much of the international press was ensconced in a dark theatre to watch the debut film of the festival, Baron Cohen grabbed the attention with a sideshow just a few blocks away.

Dressed as Aladeen, the comedian emerged from the entrance of a prestigious beachside hotel flanked by two leggy brunettes wearing military berets and carrying fake Kalashnikovs.

"Don't shoot, please!" joked one photographer in the throng surrounding the actor, who remains in character for his publicity appearances and was dressed in an orange and green polo uniform, complete with boots, riding crop and military insignia.

"Relax, no pressure," Baron Cohen told the jostling crowd of photographers, reporters and overwhelmed police struggling to keep order. "I'm a dictator! I don't want anyone to get hurt."

But a mere dictator cannot necessarily compete with the flurry of stars, Hollywood deal-makers and others who populate Cannes during the festival. Enter Aladeen's camel, whose name according to a license plate on its bridle, is Wadiya 1.

His flashy sunglasses glinting in the sun and beads of sweat appearing above his fake heavy beard, Baron Cohen fell backwards as he tried to mount the camel, showing off his talent for physical comedy.

But the show did not stop there, as the camel needed a walk, and the swanky shops of the boulevard awaited.

"Let's go shopping!" Baron Cohen called out before entering a Ralph Lauren boutique and emerging with a bright orange scarf for the dictator's dromedary.

"The Dictator," which the actor co-wrote and produced, was filmed as the popular uprisings of the Arab spring occurred throughout the Middle East.

Aladeen -- an insecure and idiotic leader who considers the U.N. Commission on Human Rights "hilarious" -- is loosely modeled on now-deceased strongmen Muammar Gaddafi and Saddam Hussein.

Although "Borat" was widely acclaimed by critics for its subtle mix of brash humor, over-the-top humor and thought-provoking voyeurism, reviews for "The Dictator" have been mixed.

The movie scores a respectable 60.5 percent positive rating at movieviewintelligence.com, a website that aggregates critical reaction.

A done-to-death storyline

Desh Bangla Theatre premieres

"Kongkal O Sharey Tin Haath"

JAMIL MAHMUD

Thirst for revenge on father's killer mingles with love for the murderer's daughter, a typical theme in popular plays/movies. Based on this clichéd story, Desh Bangla Theatre brought a new play on the stage. Titled "Kongkal O Sharey Tin Haath", the play premiered at the Experimental Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on May 16. Written by Rashidul Islam, the play has been directed by Mehedi Tanjir.

The story follows a thief, Erfan, who steals out of dire poverty. One night he breaks into the home of Liaquat, a powerful individual of the village, and is caught red handed. Liaquat decides to cage Erfan at his home. Gradually Liaquat's wife shows some affection, as the daughter falls for Erfan.

A twist comes to the fore when Erfan reveals that Liaquat is the murderer of his father. Erfan brings the skeleton of his father in front of Liaquat and wants to take revenge.

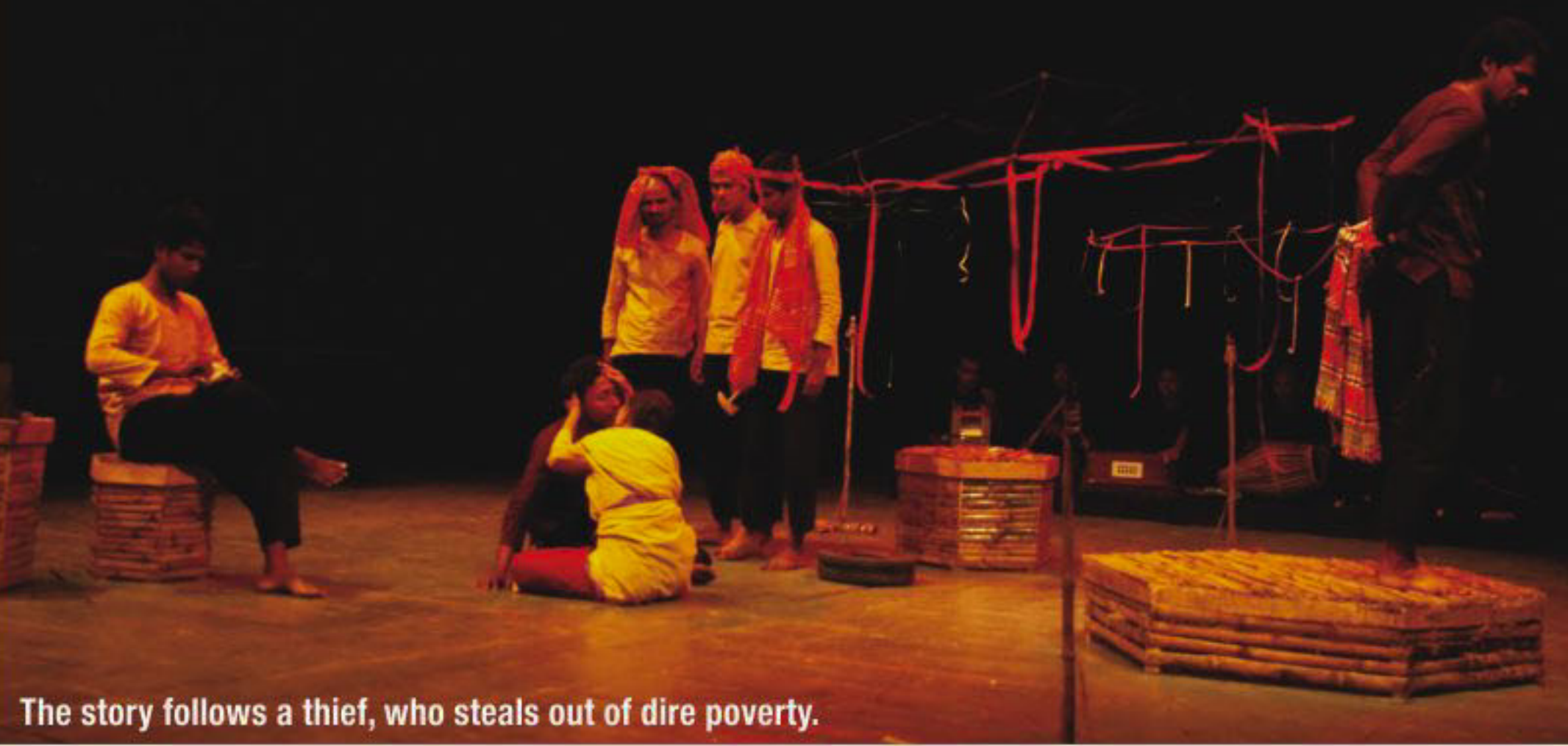
Although the story is pretty common in mainstream entertainment, the troupe should be praised for highlighting emerging artists, including the director and the actors. The director is a student of the Department of Theatre, Dhaka University. Confessing the limitations of actors and the crew, the director tried to tell a story. He chose the pala form; inevitably the stage was designed to look like an arena.

The actors tried their best to add verve to the play. Perhaps, Sharmin Aktar, as the village headman's tomboyish daughter, was the most noticeable performer. Palash Ranjan did the role of Erfan.

The cast also included Mahzabin Godhuli, Soheli Zaman and Rajkumar Paul. Syed Jubayer created the music using local instruments, while Shahabuddin Mian designed the light.

Theatre activists and teachers including Jhuna Chowdhury, Professor Afsar Ahmed and Professor Israfil Shaheen attended the premiere show as guests.

The play is the 10th production by the troupe.



The story follows a thief, who steals out of dire poverty.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

School magazine Kantabotee launched in Manikganj

ZAHANGIR SHAH, Manikganj

Publication ceremony of the school magazine "Kantabotee" was held at the Kalta Abhayacharan Bohumukhi High School premises, under Ghior Upazila, in Manikganj last Wednesday. A cultural function was also held on the occasion.

Professor Mahfuza Khanam, eminent educationist and president of

Manikganj Samity in Dhaka, formally unveiled the yearly publication as chief guest. Monjur Alam Khan, president of the school managing committee, presided over the function where school's acting head teacher Md. Enayet Ullah; former acting head teacher Harendra Kumar

Sarker; local Union Parishad chairman Abdul Kader Biswas and cultural personality Himel Khan spoke.

Professor Mahfuza Khanam urged the teachers and guardians to give equal attention to the male and female students. "We should give them the opportunity so they can demonstrate their merit," she added.

Local artists including the school students and teachers rendered songs and recited poetry at the cultural function which was held after unveiling the publication.



History in a shoebox

Rare collection of photographs found

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

Two men in a stick dance on Kolkata's famous Maidan, a lawn tennis party poses, buildings lit up on a side of Lal Dighi (now called Benoy Badal Dinesh Bagh) in Kolkata to celebrate the visit of British King George V in 1912, a hairdresser giving a haircut on Strand Road, a crowded riverside at Chandpal Ghat as a ship arrives, a Muharram procession through a crowded street...

It's history in a shoebox. That perhaps is the only way one can sum up the recent finding of an amazing collection of 178 photographs, capturing life in Kolkata under British rule a century ago, in a shoebox at the Royal Commission on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) in Edinburgh.

Among other photos in the collection is that of washermen at a "dhobighat", a group of people on two canoes, a Jain temple com-

plex (Parasnath temple in North Kolkata), a street scene and arrival of the British monarch and the Queen in Delhi in 1911.

The origins of the photos, found wrapped in a 1914 edition of The Statesman newspaper, and the identity of the photographer, were not immediately known but the RCAHMS thinks these were possibly "transported back to Britain from India" in 1914.

The RCAHMS is trying to identify the photographer and the origins of the collection. It is believed the negatives remained untouched for almost 100 years.

A press release quoting RCAHMS architectural historian Clare Sorensen said, "We don't know for sure how the negatives came to be in our collection." He added: "It's fantastic that a small shoebox contained such a treasure-trove of photographic imagery, but in some ways it's not unusual. Our experience as an archive has shown us that some of the most interesting discoveries can be made in the most unlikely of places."

NEWS BULLETIN

BTV News (Bangla) at 12pm, 2pm, 5pm, 8pm, News (English) at 10am, 4pm, 10pm, ATN BANGLA News (Bangla) at 11am, 12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, CHANNEL 1 News (Bangla) at 2pm, 9pm, 10:30pm, ntv News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm, News (Bangla) at 1pm, 3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm.	Boishakh TV News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7pm, News (English) at 9am, 6pm, BANGLAVISION News (Bangla) at 10am, 2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm, News (English) at 1pm, 3pm, 6pm, 9pm, Rtv News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm, Desh TV News (Bangla) at 2pm, 7pm, 9pm, 11pm, Massranga Television News (Bangla) at 7pm, 1am.
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TALK SHOW

ATN Bangla 12:30am News 01:00am Trio Matra Boishakh TV 12:30pm Hridoye Jummabar	12:00m Zoro Hour BANGLAVISON 12:55pm Maha Shatto Al-Quan Moner Kotha Rtv 10:40am Tarokalak Desh TV
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Katha O Gaan-e Kichukhon
On ntv at 11:30pm
Live Musical Programme
Singers: Aloke Sen and Mimi Haque



THE FIGHTER
On Fox Movies at 11:20pm
Genre: Biography, Drama
Cast: Mark Wahlberg, Amy Adams



Jhora Patar Swapno
On Desh TV at 09:45pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury,



12:05 BANGLOVISION 10:10 11:05 06:15 11:25 ntv 12:35 02:35 06:15 06:45 11:30 Rtv 10:10 12:05 05:00 07:35 11:30 Desh TV 03:00	Phone O Live Studio Concert Bhalu Thakun Amader Rannaghar Gaan O Fun Ami Ekhon Ki Korbo (Live) Bamba Concert Tele-film: Roadra Chhayar Lukochuri Shubhoshondhya Roopmadhuri Musical Programme: Kitha O Gaan-e Kichukhon Doctor's Prescription (Live) Bridal Show Cine Press R Music Drama: Shorto Projeyjo Live Musical Programme: Priyogon-er	02:50 06:15 07:00 08:00 09:35 11:20 11:50 01:45 04:30 07:30 09:30 11:45 02:30 03:30 05:30 07:30 09:30 10:30 08:30 09:30 10:30	Trust Once Upon A Time Homeland Quarantine Trust The Fighter Frozen The Mummy Returns Sex and the City 2 The Art of Bully The Mask Ong Bak 3: The Final Warrior StarWorld Supernatural Touch Unforgettable Coffee with Karan Jr Masterchef Criminal Minds National Geographic Channel Built for the Kill Dangerous Encounters Rock Stars Nat Geo Daredevils
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ATN BANGLA 09:20pm Red Dragon To Rajanigandha 11:00pm Hawai Mithai ntv 08:15pm 09:45pm	ETV 09:30pm Rongila BANGLAVISION 08:15pm Harkiptey 09:45pm Gulshan Avenue Rtv 08:15pm Chorkabyo
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