

# THEN AND NOW

**Afzal Hossain** on the evolution of TV drama

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Afzal Hossain is the emblem of our country's golden age of TV drama. Often regarded as the most successful actor on Bangladeshi TV, Afzal began acting as a member of Dhaka Theatre, when he was a student of the Institute of Fine Arts. He was a regular in almost all Dhaka Theatre productions and became a known face in TV plays. His acting skills and hard work made him stand out among his contemporaries and helped him carve a permanent niche in TV history.

Performances in several films brought fame for Afzal, including the Kazi Zahir film "Notun Bou", where he starred opposite Subarna Mustafa. He also paired up with Diti in the Abdullah Al Mamun movie "Dui Jibon", before taking a long hiatus prior to appearing in the Humayun Farid production "Palabi Kothae".

Afzal's acting gigs reduced in recent times, as the star is busy with his production house. He has also directed a new serial for Channel i, titled "Chhoto Kaku", in which he plays the eponymous role.

Meanwhile, after a decade-long break, Afzal recently paired up with Subarna Mustafa in the tele-film "Prem Bachite Janey", directed by Arif Khan and to be aired by ntv this Eid. Afzal gives all credit to Arif Khan whose insistence convinced him to work with Subarna again after many years.

Asked on how the reunion of the once-popular duo feels, Afzal says it is a very enjoyable experience. Saying that Subarna Mustafa is still regular with acting, Afzal admits that he has become a less frequent face on the TV in recent times. But the adda sessions with Subarna between scenes feel great, adds Afzal.

Asked how he manages to maintain his evergreen appearance, Afzal says he doesn't know the secret as he never has tried anything special to maintain the image. He adds that of all the mediums -- TV, cinema and theatre -- the stage attracts him the most, as people get a live "flesh and blood" experience. Working on the stage is more enjoyable, as the interaction between the audience and the performer is more direct, Afzal claims.

With many years of experience as a TV drama director, Afzal has also introduced countless models to the Bangladeshi advertising arena. The veteran says he is satisfied with all the acting performances he has done so far and is content with his career.

In the past decade, Bangladeshi media has undergone a rapid growth, with the spawning of multiple TV channels. Producers are investing crores of taka into TV plays, allowing actors to become full-time professionals. Asked between the main difference between his times and now, Afzal says his contemporaries acted out of love and passion for the art form. He adds that something good only comes out as long as there are emotions and love embedded in the performance.

There was a time when a single drama on BTV could create a massive stir, turning an actor into a star overnight. An actor's work was greatly appreciated and admired by a legion of fans during that golden era. Afzal again claims that it was the passion of the performance, which made both the acting and its reception grander.



PHOTO COURTESY: TUNIN HOSSAIN

# Udichi's memorial meeting on Humayun Ahmed

QUAMRUL ISLAM RUBAIYAT, *Thakurgaon*

District unit of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi organised a memorial meeting for the recently deceased writer Humayun Ahmed, at the auditorium of Thakurgaon Press Club on Saturday. Poets, writers, theatre artists, singers, educationists, journalists and students were present at the meeting. Prior to the programme, the attendees observed a one-minute silence to pay tribute to Ahmed. Later a discussion was held on

Ahmed's life and creative works. Dr. Amir Ali, head of Bangla department of Thakurgaon Government College, attended the programme as chief guest while poet Abul Hossain Sarcar attended as special guest. District sports officer Abu Mohiuddin; lecturer of Bangla department of Abul Hossain Sarcar College in Thakurgaon, Golam Sarwar Samrat, among others, spoke at the discussion while district unit President of Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Setara Begum, was in the chair. General secretary, Udichi Shilpi Goshthi, Komol Kumer Roy

conducted the programme. The speakers were of the view that the illustrious writer will forever remain alive in the hearts of the millions he kept enchanted for several decades through his creations. The charismatic storyteller immensely enriched Bangla literature, film and drama, they expressed.

The 64-year-old writer breathed his last at a New York hospital on July 19 after fighting against colon cancer for nine months. He was buried at Nuhash Polli in Gazipur on July 24.

# Launch of "Sohagpur"

A CORRESPONDENT

The shubho mahurot (launch) of "Sohagpur" was held at the Digital Room of BFDC (Bangladesh Film Development Corporation) on July 27. The script has been written by Suman Sarkar, and directed by Mamunur Rashid.

Among others, Hedayetullah Al Mamoon, secretary to the Information Ministry; Pijush Bandyopadhyay, managing director of BFDC; poet and journalist Nasir Ahmed; Mamunur Rashid, director of the film, attended the programme. The cast includes Bapparaj, Ferdous, Pijush Bandyopadhyay, Dolly Zohur, Boby and Mamunur Rashid.

The story sheds light on a cruel chapter during the Liberation War. Sohagpur is a village under the Nalitalbari Upazila of Sherpur district where 187 peoples were brutally killed by the Pakistani army in collaboration



Hedayet Ullah Al Mamun, ndc (2-R) and Pijush Bandyopadhyay (R) graced the Mahurat as chief guest and special guest respectively.

with Razakars. Hedayetullah Al Mamoon said, "Throughout the Liberation War, the Pakistani army and their collaborators jointly committed such heinous crimes. Today's generation will get to know the accurate history through films like this."

Pijush Bandyopadhyay said, "The incident of Sohagpur was a national tragedy and people would remember it -- from generation to generation." Nasir Ahmed said, "After 41 years of Liberation War, such kind of historical film is being made. This is an admirable effort."

# Ahmed Sofa: Voice of the underprivileged

TAKIR HOSSAIN

July 28 marked the 11th death anniversary of Ahmed Sofa. On the occasion, writers, social and cultural activists placed wreaths at his grave at the Martyred Intellectuals' Graveyard in Mirpur, Dhaka. A number of institutes and writers associations also organised discussions on his life and immense contribution to Bangla literature.

Ahmed Sofa was one of the most prolific writers of Bangladesh. He was born in 1943 at Gaachbaria in Chittagong. Among the contemporary fiction writers in Bangladesh, Sofa belongs in the first rank for his thought-provoking and contemplative writings. Most of his writings shed light on social, political and economic issues. He wrote novels, stories, essays, poems, translations, songs and criticism. Sofa was outspoken and bold. He hardly practiced religion but his conviction was unquestionable.

About Ahmed Sofa and his political view, eminent literary critic Mahfuz Ahmed Khan said, "Sofa's candid personality and courageous expressions brought him into the limelight. Simultaneously, the genius was very friendly towards the younger generation. He was never seen hankering after fame, money or materialistic gains. He was truly a secular thinker."

About his modes of writing, poet Mahadev Saha said, "Most of his literary works were often based on his personal and social experiences. He protested social and political injustice, and tried to depict yearnings, demands and thoughts of the masses through his writing. He always handled his stories with meticulous thought and planning."

"I come from a family of farmers. It is very hard to overlook this fact. I do not want to exaggerate anything. My forefathers had been directly involved with agriculture. I feel proud to be a part of them. I want poor farmers and labourers to eat rice and sing in a jovial mood," Ahmed Sofa was quoted in a book, titled "Ahmed Sofar



Samay", written by Nasir Ali Mamun. The book received high acclaim for its simple and ordinary language.

Sofa was very closely associated with noted painter SM Sultan. Both were bohemians, bachelors and had no interest in conventional life.

"We could not find such a personality in the last 100 years. His themes were all encompassing. He is the icon of Bengal. He is also a philosopher. Nobody has come forward to explore him truly. We need Sultan because he was the son of a farmer. Zainul Abedin, Quamrul Hassan are not presented in such way. They are gentlemen. They do not identify with peasants and workers," said

Sofa at "Ahmed Sofar Samay".

Sofa's novels are usually not voluminous. All his novels draw the attention of the reader for their well fleshed out, familiar and lively characters. His works plunge deep into the suffering people and their miserable living conditions.

Ahmed Sofa's "Jadopi Amar Guru" is a remarkable book- focused on National Professor Abdur Razzak's way of life. Abdur Razzak is recognised as one of the foremost intellectuals of our country. He was a thinker, philosopher, political scientist, and analyst of various contemporary issues.

Sofa embarked on his career as a novelist with "Shurjo Tumi Shathi". Published in 1967, the literary work got an extremely favourable response. Readers felt that after a long time they had found a writer who spoke their language.

Sofa wrote what he believed in. He disliked pretension and his writing is devoid of exaggeration. His writings strongly voice the concerns of underprivileged people in our country. Writing was his passion. He led a very simple and ordinary life with little place for comfort and luxury. For a long time, he stayed in a single room with nothing else but a bed, chairs, table and bookshelves.

Ahmed Sofa died in 2001.

# Amy Winehouse's death, one year later: A timeline



*In January 2011, Amy Winehouse returned to the stage in Brazil to largely positive reviews. Six months later, she performed what was quickly deemed a "train wreck" gig in Belgrade, Serbia, where she greeted the crowd, "Hello, Athens!" and stumbled around the stage clutching her stomach for an agonizing 90 minutes. On July 20, she danced alongside her goddaughter Dionne Bromfield at the iTunes festival. Three days later, she was discovered unresponsive in bed by her bodyguard at her Camden Square flat. The 27-year-old singer was pronounced dead at the scene.*  
*In the days and weeks that followed, the number of tributes to Winehouse was nearly matched by the volume of stories speculating about her death and what would come next.*  
*Here's a timeline tracking the most important developments in the Winehouse story in the year following her death.*

**July 23, 2011:** Musicians react to Winehouse's death, including producer and close collaborator Mark Ronson, who tweeted, "She was my musical soulmate & like a sister to me."  
**July 25, 2011:** M.I.A. releases "27," a tribute track dedicated to "all [her] friends" who died at that age, which she tweeted alongside the note "R.I.P. A.M.Y."  
**July 26, 2011:** Winehouse's family and friends bury the singer at a private funeral in North London.  
**July 27, 2011:** Winehouse's "Back to Black" returns to the Billboard Top 200 albums chart at No. 9 with 37,000 copies sold.  
**August 16, 2011:** Green Day debut a new song live called "Amy" and post its lyrics on their website, which include "27 gone without a trace/And you walked away from your drink /Is your heart singing out of tune /Are you eyes just singing the blues?"  
**September 14, 2011:** On what would have been the singer's 28th birthday, Winehouse's label, Columbia, releases the video for her duet with Tony Bennett.  
**October 11, 2011:** Mitch Winehouse unsurprisingly announces that he's signed a deal with HarperCollins to write a book about his daughter.

**October 26, 2011:** U.K. coroner Suzanne Greenaway rules Amy Winehouse's official cause of death "misadventure" and states she died because she disregarded the risks of excessive alcohol intake.  
**March 28, 2012:** Documents are made public that show that Winehouse unsurprisingly hadn't drafted a will, so her approximately \$4.66 million fortune will go not to her ex-husband Blake Fielder-Civil, but instead to her parents.  
**May 11, 2012:** Winehouse had once offered friend Pete Doherty a sample of her blood as a "self-portrait" painted on one of his canvases. He finished it off with his own "arterial splatter," named it "Ladylike," and put it on display at London's Cob Gallery as part of a larger personal collection.  
**June 28, 2012:** Amy, My Daughter, Mitch Winehouse's memoir, is published.  
**July 16, 2012:** George Michael tells a radio interviewer that he had approached Adele about performing a duet with him at his November 6, 2011 AIDS charity fund concert in honour of the late Elizabeth Taylor, but that the song he proposed they sing, Winehouse's "Love is a Losing Game".

SOURCE: **SPIN**

# Maasranga Television turns one

A CORRESPONDENT

Maasranga Television turns one today. Marking the occasion, the channel has arranged special programmes including music, adda, drama and much more today.

Seasoned singers Syed Abdul Hadi, Farida Parveen, Sadi Mohammad, Fatema-Tuz-Zohra and Rafiqul Alam will perform songs in the programme titled "E Lagan Gaan Shonabar" that will be aired on 6 am today. Noted personalities of the country will take part in a two hour long programme "Ranga Shokal" at 7 am.

Starting from 12 pm, guests from various sectors including politics, drama, film, sports and music will participate in a programme featuring adda and music. Accomplished singers Mostafa Zaman Abbasi, Mita Huq, Khairul Anam Shakil and Tanveer Alam Shawjeeb will render songs in the programme that will continue till 4:30 pm.

Emceed by Naveed, a special entertainment show titled "Borshophurti"



will be on air at 7:30 pm. Written and directed by Mazharul Haque Pintu and Abul Hossain Khokon, a TV play titled "Mokkel" will be aired on the channel. Officials of Maasranga Television have enacted different roles in the play. Singer Kanak Chapa will present songs in a live musical programme "Ranga Raat" at 11 pm on the day.

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**Beetle Baily** by Mort Walker

YOU SAY THERE'S A PROBLEM IN THE "A" COMPANY BARRACKS? YES, IT'S THEIR FURNACE IT'S OVER-HEATING

**Henry** by Don Trachte

WHAT'S THAT? MEAN, HENRY? TREASURER

# Madonna booted in Paris

Madonna fans vented their anger after the star ended a special intimate show in Paris after just 45 minutes. The singer said she had "a special affinity with France" as she opened the last minute concert, but drew boos from many disappointed fans. The 2,000 tickets sold out in minutes, with fans paying between £80-£200 and some changing hands for up to £1,000. Madonna was also criticised for talking about politics instead of singing, after revealing she had a message for France's extreme right-wing leader Marine Le Pen. France's National Front is threatening to sue the star for using an image of Le Pen with a Swastika superimposed on her forehead at a concert earlier this month. "I know that I have made a certain Marine Le Pen very angry with me," Madonna told fans. "It's not my intention to make enemies. It's my intention to promote tolerance," she continued. Afterwards 33-year-old Guillaume Delaval complained: "She spoke for 15 minutes about tolerance, it's not the UN here."

Paris resident Allain Zambrana, 26, from Nicaragua, said he wanted to ask for his money back. "I felt very frustrated because I camped out on the streets and then the show just ends like that." Several fans cried "refund!" as they realised Madonna had left the stage for good, with some audience members taking to Twitter to complain. "We are singing 'shame on you'," explained Pierre from Belgium. "Because she says she loves her fans but then she does this." The 53-year-old, who performed in an array of outfits including a black leather pencil skirt and French beret, also paid tribute to several French artists. The event was also streamed live on YouTube, where separate footage showed fans chanting and booing while throwing empty bottles and cups onto the stage after the singer had left. Madonna is due to perform in France again on August 21, in Nice.



ATN BANGLA	11:20 Business and Finance	01:30 Business Time Line
11:25 Matir Shubash	04:40 Onushondhan	03:30 Sughah Bangladesh
04:45 Jhugat Iftar	09:40 Drama Serial: Ranga Ma	08:40 Onushondhan
06:10 Islam Sawal O Jawab	12:05 News of the Day	09:40 Drama Serial: Ranga Ma
09:20 Drama Serial: Jhulonta	Maasranga Television	12:05 News of the Day
Babura	12:00 Special Programme	09:40 Drama Serial: Ranga Ma
CHANNEL i	07:30 Fun Show	12:00 Special Programme
01:05 Eboing Cinemar Gaan	08:00 Drama: Mokkel	07:30 Fun Show
01:30 Hridoyer Gaan	09:00 Phirey Dekha	08:00 Drama: Mokkel
04:05 Amar Chhobi	11:00 Ranga Saat	09:00 Phirey Dekha
07:50 Chhuti Din Eboing Ekti	CHANNEL 9	11:00 Ranga Saat
Neel Naksha	09:15 Bangla Feature Film	07:50 Chhuti Din Eboing Ekti
Travel On	05:30 Alokiti Ramzan	09:15 Neel Naksha
ntv	07:45 Drama Serial: Dead End	05:30 Alokiti Ramzan
08:45 Bangla Feature Film	09:15 Hater Kachhey Pothor	07:45 Drama Serial: Dead End
06:15 Chobro Nobor Pothey	11:15 Islamic Jigghasha	09:15 Hater Kachhey Pothor
09:00 Maggi Taste n Balance	CHANNEL 24	11:15 Islamic Jigghasha
Kachher	01:05 Eno Jibon	09:00 Maggi Taste n Balance
09:45 Drama Serial: Ocheno	08:10 Shopping & Cooking	01:05 Eno Jibon
Prothimbo	10:15 Drama Serial: Joichhobi	08:10 Shopping & Cooking
11:30 Aponar Jigghasha	12:00 Modhyraater Muktabak	10:15 Drama Serial: Joichhobi
ETV		12:00 Modhyraater Muktabak

**Jhulonta Babura**  
On ATN BANGLA at 09:20pm  
Drama Serial  
Cast: Mosharraf Karim, Nafiza

**X2: X-Men United**  
On Fox Movies at 08:45pm  
Genre: Documentary  
Cast: Halle Berry, Alan Cumming

**Bhalobashi Gaan**  
On Gtv at 09:35pm  
Musical Programme  
Host: Swagata

11:30 Ekushey-er Business	Gtv
06:20 Drama Serial: Rojadar	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
07:50 Siyam O Shuchastha	06:00 Mahay Ramzan
10:10 Cine Hiss	08:30 Drama Serial: Jannati
Boishakhi TV	09:35 Bhalobashi Gaan
11:15 The Business Show	12:00 Shongbad Shonglap
04:15 Shorashori Doctor	Fox Movies
05:30 Ramzan Protidin	01:45 Water for Elephants
08:00 Tamar Ranna	03:45 The Mechanic
11:00 Reporters Dairy	05:20 When A Stranger Calls
BANGLAVISION	07:00 X-Men
03:00 Bangla Feature Film	11:00 Knight & Day
04:05 Ramzan O Amader Jibon	HBO
05:30 Qur'an-er Alo	12:25 Blade
07:00 Style File	02:50 Harry Potter and the
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	Deathly Hallows Part 1
Desh TV	05:55 Blade II
03:00 Gaan R Gaan	08:10 Game of Thrones (Season 2)
05:00 Durpath	09:30 The Core
06:20 Ramzan Protidin	12:15 Due Date
09:45 Cinema Express	Diganta TV
12:30 Total Sports	

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	09:20pm Onipthor
08:40pm Rupanantar	BANGLAVISION
Manush	09:05pm Long March
CHANNEL i	Rtv
09:35pm Wonderland	08:15pm Side Effect
ntv	Desh TV
08:15pm Kaggor Bari	07:45pm Sat Kahon
ETV	Maasranga Television
09:30pm Tattu Ghor	08:00pm Sat Sawdagar
Boishakhi TV	09:30pm Jadur Shahar

NEWS BULLETIN	
BTV	Boishakhi TV
News (Bangla) at 12pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am,
2pm, 5pm, 8pm,	2pm, 7pm,
News (English) at 10am,	News (English) at 9am,
4pm, 10pm,	6pm,
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
News (Bangla) at 11pm,	News (Bangla) at 10am,
12pm, 2pm, 7pm, 10pm,	2pm, 7:30pm, 10:30pm,
News (English) at 9am,	News (English) at 1pm,
6pm,	3pm, 6pm, 9pm,
CHANNEL i	Rtv
News (Bangla) at 2pm,	News (Bangla) at 1:45pm, 6:45pm, 10:45pm,
5pm, 10:30pm,	Desh TV
ntv	News (Bangla) at 2pm,
News (Bangla) at 2pm,	7pm, 9pm, 11pm,
10:30pm,	ETV
News (Bangla) at 1pm,	Maasranga Television
3pm, 5pm, 7pm, 9pm,	News (Bangla) at 7pm,
11pm,	1am,

TALK SHOW	
ATN BANGLA	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
11:30pm Je Kotha Keu Boleni	Boishakhi TV
12:30am Lead News	08:35pm Public Intellectual
CHANNEL i	12:00am Zero Hour
09:45am Tritto Matra	BANGLAVISION
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	11:25pm Probashi Mukh
ntv	Rtv
12:30am Ei Shomoy	11:30pm Our Democracy
ETV	Desh TV