

CLASSICS REVISITED

Celebrating a century of Indian cinema

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

To celebrate the 100 years of Indian cinema, a special programme and screening of films featuring veteran Indian actor Soumitra Chatterjee are now on at the Main Auditorium of Bangladesh National Museum in Dhaka. Bangladesh Film Development Corporation (BFDC) and Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre (IGCC), High Commission of India in Dhaka, have jointly arranged the programme.

The programme has been supported by the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Bangladesh and Directorate of Film Festivals, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting, Government of India.

The opening ceremony was held yesterday at the National Museum. Information Minister Abul Kalam Azad inaugurated the ceremony as chief guest. Pankaj Saran, the Indian High Commissioner to Bangladesh; Information Secretary Hedayet Ullah Al Mamun; Suraiya Begum NDC, Secretary, Ministry of Cultural Affairs; noted Indian actor Farooq Shaikh; Indian film director Muzaffar Ali; Rajib Jain, director of the festival, among others, attended the programme.

The director of IGCC, Ankan Banerjee; US Ambassador to Bangladesh, Dan Mozena; noted Bangladeshi filmmaker Morshedul Islam; actor Jayanta Chattopadhyay, among

others, were also present at the programme.

Abul Kalam Azad said, "Bangladesh and India recently jointly celebrated Rabindranath Tagore's 150th birth anniversary. Our cultural troupes frequently visit India and Indian cultural troupes also often perform in our country. Since our independence, the bilateral relationship of the two countries has developed and deepened."

Pankaj Saran said, "The festival has played a significant role for both countries. Film buffs will get an opportunity to enjoy some classic films of India and Bangladesh. BFDC and IGCC have played a significant role by arranging the festival to uphold the culture and tradition of the two countries."

After the inauguration, Indian feature film "Raja Harishchandra" (directed and produced by Dadasaheb Phalke) was screened. It was followed by a screening of "Apur Sansar". The joint celebration includes a number of Indian films -- "Apur Sansar", "Ashani Sanket", "Ghare Baire", "Hirak Rajar Deshe" and "Sonar Kella".

Some Bangladeshi films -- "Surjo Dighal Bari", "Shimana Periyee", "Monpura", "Matir Moina", "Chaka", "Aguner Parashmani", "Lathiyal" and "Abujh Mon" -- will be screened throughout the festival, while films in different Indian languages such as "Jyomati" (Assamese), "Valu" (Marathi) and "Ghatashradha" (Kannada) will also be screened.



Muzaffar Ali and Farooq Shaikh in town

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Renowned Indian filmmaker, artist Muzaffar Ali and Indian actor Farooq Shaikh are in town to attend the joint celebration of 100 years of Indian cinema -- by the Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre in Dhaka and Bangladesh Film Development Corporation -- and Soumitra Chatterjee retrospective. The festival that opened yesterday at the National Museum in Dhaka will continue till September 8 (excluding September 6).

On the occasion, noted Bangladeshi filmmaker and producer Catherine Masud, Muzaffar Ali and Farooq Shaikh met the press at Dhaka Club on August 31, took questions and spoke on several issues.

Asked about her reaction on the celebration of 100 years of Indian cinema, Catherine Masud said, "Bangladesh and India share many traditions. Indian films are appreciated here. I would like to see Bangladeshi cinema being celebrated in India too."

Masud also regretted that Soumitra Chatterjee could not attend the festival honouring him. About the veteran thespian, she said, "He is one of great film personalities still alive and his acting should be studied."

On his preference for 'period films', Muzaffar Ali said, "I'm deeply rooted in history. Through the exploration of history, we can understand what went wrong. In that regard, period films are significant."

"As a painter, it's another high to be able to create an ambiance. Doing sketches, choosing fabric...going over every detail -- the whole process is deeply gratifying."

Ali's film "Umrao Jaan" (1981), considered a classic, narrates the story of a courtesan and poetess by the same name from 19th century Lucknow. The film had been acclaimed profusely for its in-depth depiction of that era and the high culture of Lucknow.

"Umrao Jaan" was screened yesterday at the festival. Ali also said, "Bengalis are deeply impassioned about art. Needless to say, this was evident in Satyajit Ray too. His proximity alone was remarkable. One of the main objectives of cinema is to cross borders, creating a world without barriers. On that note, I would like to see more India-Bangladesh collaboration in films. Sharing writers and concepts could be a start."

This was Farooq Shaikh's second visit to Dhaka. The consummate actor who had worked with Ray in "Shatranj Ke Khilari (1977)" said that the iconic filmmaker was "very methodical".

About period films or historical drama, the actor said that he does not treat them differently from other genres. "Sure the costume is different. If the language is different, it needs special focus. Sometimes you need to deliver more melodrama without sounding fake but other than that a film is a film," said Shaikh.

About his working relationships with leading ladies like Rekha, Shabana Azmi and Deepti Naval, Shaikh said, "These ladies are all remarkable performers. It's like a duet. In a duet when one singer delivers a brilliant note, his/her partner feels the urge to belt out a great pitch. Just like that, when your co-actor is delivering a brilliant performance, you raise your game."

Having a theatre background trains one to memorise lines better and forget that there are people around when performing, said the thespian. According to him, he is comfortable in all three mediums -- theatre, TV and films.

Farooq Shaikh is currently working on a film, titled "Club 60", directed by Sanjay Tripathi. The film also features Sarika and Satish Shah, and follows a group of 60 something people who are trying to live life on their terms.



Light unto 100 years...

TV WATCH

Runa-Madhuri in tandem

A CORRESPONDENT

Runa Laila was a special guest along with Pakistani singer Abida Parveen on "Jhalak Dikhlaa Jaa" to promote their music reality show "Sur Kshetra".

Madhuri Dixit, filmmaker Karan Johar and Remo (choreographer) are the three judges on "Jhalak".

Madhuri and Runa Laila sang and danced to the latter's very popular song "O mera babu chhail chhabila". They were joined on stage by Karan and Remo.

The show will be telecast on the Indian channel Colors tonight, at 9:30 pm Bangladesh time.



Creating an idiom for mankind

Selim Al Deen fest ends with staging of "Bisharjan"

JAMIL MAHMUD

The week-long Selim Al Deen Festival 2012 ended with the staging of Indian troupe Tritio Shutra's "Bisharjan", at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy, on August 31. Suman Mukhopadhyay's directorial approach to the Tagore play made a lasting impact, in particular omnipresent priest Raghupati's soft-spoken dialogues.

The characterisation of the protagonist, engaging performances along with a stunning set and befitting light at times were shining aspects of Mukhopadhyay's direction. He is better known to Bangladeshi culture lovers for his Indian National Award winning film "Herbert" (2006).

Gautam Haldar, who a couple of days ago impressed the Dhaka audience with his solo performances for "Naye Natua", once again shone with a stunning performance as Raghupati. His rather improvised voice of a confused individual who all the time deals with good and evil befittingly fits in with the character created by Tagore. We saw a rather blank Raghupati soon after Joysingha's death when an outburst of emotion was more expected.

While there are different issues about this particular production of the Tagore play, the festival has many more aspects worth a mention. The final day also saw the staging of two more productions, Shomoy's Taufique Al Hakim adaptation "Shesh Sanglaap" and a solo recitation "Amar Rabindranath" by Hasan Arif.

The pieces were staged at the Experimental Theatre Hall and Studio Theatre Hall respectively.

Apart from the plays, the organisers arranged a weeklong exhibition featuring terracotta and other artefacts found in the under-excavation sites Wari and Bateswar. A seminar was also held on the same topic. In both cases, the aim was to see a correlation between our history of civilisation and Al Deen's thoughts regarding the history of theatre practice of this land.

Diversity of staging plays was an important aspect of the festival. When a festival named after a playwright such as Al Deen is held, the audience would anticipate more plays written by him. But stepping out of this stereotype concept, the organisers featured only one of his plays ["Dhaboman" by Dhaka Theatre] and included a diverse



Suman Mukhopadhyay's directorial approach to the Tagore play made a lasting impact.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

range of plays, from Rabindranath Tagore to Shake-speare, from Oedipus to Taufique Al Hakim.

Selim Al Deen Foundation and Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy arranged the weeklong festival that began on

August 25 with the staging of Dhaka Theatre's new production "The Tempest". Dhaka Theatre and Bangladesh Gram Theatre assisted the organisers to celebrate the genius of our gifted playwright Al Deen who died in 2008.

09:35	Drama Serial: Alice in Wonderland	09:25	Kobir Lorai
11:30	Prokriti O Jibon	11:15	Hits & Bits
ntv		CHANNEL 24	
08:45	Bangla Feature Film	01:05	Hanimun
03:10	Drama Serial: Ronger Manush	04:30	Made in Bangladesh
09:00	Drama: Epashe Bondho Janala	08:10	Musical Launch
11:30	Ideas Change Lives	10:15	Drama Serial: Joichhobi
ETV		Gtv	
11:30	Ekushey-er Business	11:30	Bangla Feature Film
04:30	Jibon Brite	05:15	Mohajagatik
06:30	Desh Jurey Oporadh Porikroma	09:05	Drama Serial: Jonani
07:50	Music Station	09:35	Life in Metro
11:45	Ekushey-er Raat	12:00	Shongbad Shonglap
Boishakhi TV		Fox Movies	
04:15	Shorashori Doctor	02:35	Unstoppable
05:30	Shudhu Cinemar Gaan	04:15	Anger Management
08:25	Fashion Hat	07:30	X-Men: First Class
09:20	Drama Serial: Ognipoth	11:50	Dear John
11:00	Reporters Dairy	Star World	
BANGLAVISION		01:30	Master Chef Australia
01:05	Bangla Feature Film	07:30	Dexter
06:05	Ebong Class-er Bairey	09:30	Glee
08:15	Drama Serial: Ladies First	10:30	Once Upon A Time
11:25	Business Vision	11:30	Two and a Half Men
		Discovery Channel	
		02:30	Man vs. Wild
		06:30	Extraordinary Women
		08:00	Factory Made

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	BANGLAVISION
09:20pm Jhulonto Babura	09:05pm Long March
CHANNEL i	Rtv
07:50pm Noorjahan	09:05pm Oloshpur
ntv	Desh TV
08:15pm Bondhu Amar	07:45pm Saatkahon
ETV	Maasranga Television
09:30pm Tattu Ghora	08:00pm Sat Sawdagor
Boishakhi TV	CHANNEL 24
08:00pm Istikutum	09:30pm Jadur Shahar

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

TALK SHOW	
BTV	10:10pm Media Gossip
01:25pm Digital Bangladesh	Boishakhi TV
ATN BANGLA	12:00am Zero Hour
12:30am Lead News	Rtv
CHANNEL i	11:30pm Our Democracy
12:30pm Taroka Kothon	Desh TV
ntv	11:45pm Shoja Kotha
12:00am Ei Shomoy	Maasranga Television
ETV	12:02am Shamprotik