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Mughal history through contemporary eyes

Prangane Mor's new play "Aurangzeb"

JAMIL MAHMUD

Does history repeat itself or is it all about individual fate? Whatever it is, the confession or self-realisation that the Mughal Emperor Aurangzeb made in his last days forms the core of a new play, "Aurangzeb". The play sees Aurangzeb facing the similar fate that his father, Shah Jahan, endured because of his desire for power. The play tries to establish that the policy taken by Aurangzeb during his reign went wrong. Ignoring his predecessors' strategy, he tried to initiate a new way that finally fell through.

Theatre troupe Prangane Mor premiered the play on September 28 at the National Theatre Hall, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy. Ananta Heera has directed the play, written by Mohit Chattopadhyay.

The play starts with Aurangzeb (played by Ananta Heera) revolting against his father. Eventually he succeeds and takes the throne, imprisons his father, Emperor Shah Jahan (Ramiz

Razu) along with sister Jahanara (Shuvechchha), and forces elder brother Dara Shikoh (Usuf Palash) to flee. Among the siblings, only younger sister Roshanara (Nuna Afroz) supports Aurangzeb.

Aurangzeb later captures and kills Dara. The play skips years ahead before going to the last sequence. In the last sequence, the audience witnesses the confession made by a 90-year-old Aurangzeb to his daughter.

The two-hour-long play is a history lesson, more or less. Engaging and tense scenes inside the palace; conversation between Shah Jahan and Jahanara; creating impressions of war and bloodshed through surround sound; Aurangzeb and Dara fighting about the Mughal policy and the actors' credible performances kept the audience glued to the seats.

A 10-minute break separates the play into two parts. In the first part the audience witnesses a tensed, fallen Emperor Shah Jahan. In this part, Aurangzeb's presence is only felt through conversations. The protagonist appears just after the break, when everything is under control.



A scene from the play.

Impressive set and costumes indicate that this is a big budget production. Nuna Afroz designed the costume -- refined versions of what jatra artistes usually wear when playing Mughal characters. The premiere show kept the full house

engrossed, on a holiday evening, with convincing performances by Ananta Heera, Ramiz Razu and Nuna Afroz. Faiz Zahir designed the set and light; Ramiz Razu directed the music. "Aurangzeb" is the 7th production by Prangane Mor.

PHOTO: JAMIL MAHMUD

A Rainbow of refined melodies at Nazrul Utshab

Nazrul Academy honours Shafiur Rahman

ZAHANGIR ALOM

In recognition to his lifelong contribution to classical music, Nazrul Academy posthumously honoured Shafiur Rahman (of Suddha Sangeet Proshar Goshthi) with the 'Sur-Saaki' award at this month's Nazrul Utshab [festival]. Usha Rahman, widow of Shafiur Rahman, received the award at the programme held on September 28 at the Academy.

Eminent educationist and chief executive of Bishwa Sahitya Kendra, Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed, handed over a crest and a certificate to Usha Rahman at the event.

"Music is a subject that I know little about. In my early years, I tried to learn music and to play violin and sitar. I successfully became a failure in every attempt. When genius flourishes, a person becomes an artiste. If someone aptly understands a genre of art, he/she is thought to be a connoisseur. I don't have the audacity to consider myself as a connoisseur.



Usha Rahman receives award from Professor Abdullah Abu Sayeed.

Classical music connoisseur Shafiur Rahman was a real fighter. He dedicated his whole life to the cause of classical music," said Abdullah Abu Sayeed. "Music has really been in a difficult position after television became widely accessible. Television with its small screen is a visual medium. The practice and publicity of good music on television is rare, let alone cov-

erage of classical music. Those who were serving tea have now become producers of BTv, the state-owned channel. No recruitment of real talents, no competition or evaluation process is evident at BTv. Politics has engulfed every sector of our country. No creative faculty can flourish if rampant politicisation goes on," added Professor Sayeed. A classical music programme



Priyanka Gope sings at the event.

followed. Renowned classical vocalist Anil Kumar Saha started off with a khayal set on Raga Behag. The artiste immaculately presented the vilambit bandish, "Eyee Kawana Dhanga Tora Sajani". The audience appreciated Saha's presentation of speedy taan, coupled with a tabla lahara by Bishwajit Natto, with rounds of applause. Alok Kumar Sen on harmonium and Matiar Rahman on sarangi also

accompanied the artiste. Accomplished vocalist Priyanka Gope was next to take the stage. Priyanka was on a musical high as she performed both vilambit ("Ratia Hamarey") and drut ("Jaag Mori Bhag Eri Aaj") bandish on Raga Marubehag, set on vilambit ektal and teentaal respectively. The artiste wrapped up her part with a Nazrul Sangeet, "Shey Chole Gechhey Bole Ki Go", dedicated to the memory of Shafiur Rahman. Zakir Hossain on tabla and Sohel on harmonium accompanied Priyanka.

The last performer of the soiree was Maidul Islam. Maidul, a music teacher at Nazrul Academy, first rendered a khayal based on Raga Gorok Kalyan. The sweetness of the melody had a moving quality. And last but not the least, the artiste performed a Nazrul Sangeet, "Kuhu Kuhu Kuhu Kuhu Koyelia" based on Raga Khamaj. Nazrul Utshab features performances of both Hindustani classical music and Nazrul Sangeet and is held on the last Friday of every month.

Tanvir Tareque: Steeped in music



SHAH ALAM SHAZU

Tanvir Tareq is one of the busiest music directors of this time, whose talents also expand into the realms of composing and penning lyrics. He won a Citycell Channel i Music Award (Best Music Director) last year, under the popular category. Tanvir is currently busy working on his 23rd mixed album, titled "Hridoy Ghotito". The album features recognised singers like Japan Chowdhury, Fahmida Nabi, SI Tutul, Nirjhor, Lutfor Hasan, Dinat

Jahan Munni, Nijhu and Tanvir Tareq himself. The virtuoso Tareq also has a skilled singing voice, the examples of which can be found in four mixed albums.

The music director is now working on composing tunes for two films "Kachhe Eshe Bhalobesho" and "Most Welcome 2". In "Kachhe Eshe Bhalobesho", three of Tanvir's songs -- written by Zahid Akbar -- will feature the voices of Kailash Kher, Shaan and Raghav. The latest work by the music director also includes the mixed album "Kahatok", featuring singers of 'Close Up 1' talent hunt fame.

Tanvir has so far penned lyrics for over 300 songs, which include the likes of Ayub Bachhu's popular track "Dukhina Raat". The talented Tanvir says he has written songs for almost all the leading artistes of the country, many of which have gone on to be hits. He is also a familiar face on television, with various TV shows under his belt. Tanvir hosts Ekushey TV's popular weekly programme "Media Gossip" and he recently began hosting "Shetu Bondhon" for Diganta TV. He also hosts popular programme "Green Room" for Radio Today.

Subir Nandi, meanwhile, is set to release his latest solo album "Mughdhoti Nibo Bole", the music for which has been composed by Tanvir. Terming this experience as a "great achievement", Tanvir says he took almost two years to work on Subir Nandi's album. Asked what identity he is most comfortable in, the talented Tanvir says he likes to be known as the "man of music", as he wishes to live in the world of music for the rest of his life.

Padatik and Mitali hold talent hunt for Rabindra Sangeet singers



Artistes perform at the programme.

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking 88th birth anniversary of legendary singer Kanika Bandyopadhyay, Mitali, India-Bangladesh Shangskriti Sangsad and Padatik Sangeet Sangsad, Bangladesh joined hands to discover talented young Rabindra Sangeet singers through competitions.

The talent hunt started in India on September 26 and in Bangladesh on September 28. Contestants from all the seven divisions of Bangladesh will further take part in another round of competition that will be held today (October 1) at level 3 of The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka. Six best competitors will go to India to take part in the final competition.

The final competition will be held on October 10. Twelve contestants -- six from Bangladesh and India each -- will participate in the final round of the competition that will be held at Purbashree Auditorium, Kolkata. Top contestants along with noted Tagore singers from Bangladesh and India will pay tribute to Kanika Bandyopadhyay. The best contestant will be given Rs 26000 along with the Mohor Kanika Award.

BTv	10:05 123 Sisimpur	09:30 Drama Serial: Jadur Shahaar
	12:05 Shukhi Paribar	10:15 Drama Serial: Jolchhobi
	03:45 ICC Twenty-twenty Cricket World Cup	Gtv
	07:45 ICC Twenty-twenty Cricket World Cup	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
		04:45 Harmony
		09:05 Drama Serial: Mayajjal
		09:30 Gaan-e Gaan-e Adda
ATN BANGLA		my tv
11:20 Business and Finance		03:00 Bangla Feature Film
01:25 Matir Subash		08:10 Drama Serial: Raj Lakhhi
09:20 Drama Serial: DB		Srikanto
01:00 Onno Drishti		10:50 E Shudhu Gaaner Shomoy
CHANNEL i		Fox Movies
09:45 Tritiyo Matra		11:00 The Help
07:50 Drama: Otithi		03:20 Scream 4
11:30 Special Programme		05:15 Bruce Almighty
Boishakhi TV		07:00 The Twilight Saga: Eclipse
04:15 Shorashori Doctor		09:05 Colombiana
06:20 Krishi O Jibon		
08:00 Drama Serial: Istikutum		

RADIO	
abc radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express
03:25 Laa Classic	12:00 My Time
05:30 Kacha Lanka	01:00 No Tension
06:30 Mitha Kara	04:00 Dhaka Calling
07:20 GP Lounge	09:00 Night Rider
07:45 Megh Barata	01:00 Back to Back Music
09:30 Love Hour	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6
11:10 Shabda Golpo Drum	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka
Radio Foorti	12:00 Today's Adda
07:30 Hello Dhaka	04:00 U Turn

Otithi
On CHANNEL i at 07:50pm
Single Episode TV Play
Cast: Champa, Ahmed Rubel, Sarika

Rango
On HBO at 05:05pm
Genre: Animation/Adventure
Cast: Johnny Depp, Isla Fisher & Timothy Olyphant

Jhulanta Babura
On ATN BANGLA at 08:40pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Abul Hayat, Dr. Ejaz

11:00 Reporters Dairy	10:55 The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion the Witch And
BANGLAVISION	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	HBO
06:25 Front Line	10:50 Spy Kids
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	12:40 Hop
	02:40 Captain America: The First Avenger
11:25 Probashi Mukh	05:05 Rango
Rtv	07:15 Ip Man
12:05 Bangla Feature Film	09:30 Around the World In 80 Days
09:05 Drama Serial: Boyra Poribar	Star World
09:50 Bridal Show	02:30 Grey's Anatomy
12:05 Musical Programme	04:30 The Simpson's
Diganta TV	09:00 How I Met Your Mother
01:30 Business Time Live	09:30 Master Chef Australia
03:30 Suphala Bangladesh	12:00 2 Broke Girls
09:05 Diganta Onushondhan	National Geographic Channel
12:05 News of the Day	11:30 Mega Structures
Maasranga Television	02:30 IC 814 Air Hijack
11:02 Bangla Feature Film	05:30 Air Crash Investigation
08:30 Drama Serial: Khonikaloy	08:30 Stuntmen of Bollywood
09:30 Drama Serial: College	09:30 Big Cats
11:00 Shajir Baramkhana	11:30 Nat Geo Secret Diaries
CHANNEL 24	BBC World
08:10 Shopping & Cooking	11:00 BBC World News

DRAMA SERIAL	
ATN BANGLA	09:05pm Long March
08:40pm Jhulanta Babura	Rtv
ntv	08:15pm Side Effect
08:15pm Kagojer Bari	Desh TV
ETV	07:45pm Sat Kahon
09:30pm Tattu Ghora	Maasranga Television
Boishakhi TV	08:00pm Sat Sawdagor
09:20pm Ognipoth	CHANNEL 9
BANGLAVISION	08:40pm Opashe Baraf Dana

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	12:05am Ekushey-er Raat
10:25pm Oikoyamatoyor Bangladesh	Boishakhi TV
ATN BANGLA	07:00am Zero Hour
11:30pm Je Kothea Keu Boleni	Rtv
ntv	11:30pm Our Democracy
12:00am Ei Shomoy	Maasranga Television
ETV	12:02am Shamprotik
	CHANNEL 24
	12:00am Modhyraer Muktabak