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Joya's venture across the borders

Abarto hits Kolkata screens



"I am more at ease in portraying character roles" - Joya Ahsan

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

As her debut Indian film "Abarto" hit the screens in Kolkata on Friday, well-known Bangladeshi actress Joya Ahsan is both excited as well as a little anxious about the audience there receives her role in it.

Having wowed Kolkata film lovers with her impressive performance in award-winning "Guerrilla" (directed by Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu) at the Kolkata International Film Festival two years ago, Joya said on Friday that she hoped the audience here would not reject her role in "Abarto" as the present-day avatar of Charulata, the lead character in Satyajit Ray's movie "Charulata".

The reason for her anxiety is that there has been some speculation if her role in "Abarto" is reminiscent of Madhabi Mukherjee's role in Ray's "Charulata".

"My character Charu is not exactly a take-off from Charulata, and I simply am awestruck about Madhabi Mukherjee's portrayal of the character," insists Joya. "But yes, like every woman of this age, my Charu also feels cooped up in the 'abarto' (cycle) and wants to move beyond."

About similarities between her character and that of Charulata in the Ray classic, Joya said, "Both Charulata and my Charu belong to north Kolkata. Both are very traditional and yet steeped in modernity and I guess in both films the two are pivotal characters. But the direct similarities end there."

According to Joya, experimentation was more pre-

dominant in Bengali films on this side of the border. "Here the audience seems to be more receptive to multilayered films and their tastes are different."

Jaya, who had got rave reviews for her portrayal in films like "Chorabali" (2012), internationally acclaimed "Guerrilla" (2011), besides "Dubsatar" (2010) and "Bachelor" (2003), said, "I am more at ease in portraying character roles."

About the difference in working in Tollywood and Dhaliwood, Joya said "I would love to work in both industries. We talk in the same language, the surroundings are so similar in the two 'Bengals; there exists the same middle, upper middle and lower classes."

And the little tales of woe and misery of the poor in both parts of the border remain the same. So, how can the film language be different?"

The actress said Bangladesh is as possessive about Satyajit Ray and Rabindranath Tagore as India, and expressed the hope that the move by FICCI and producers of Bangladesh film industry to open up the market was replete with great possibilities.

Happy that "Abarto" will be among the first few Bengali films lined up for release in Bangladesh territory, its director-actor Arindam said, "Abarto is a metaphor signifying planetary movement in this universe."

"Like planets in the solar system, we are moving in the same axis; we are playing with our emotions, our values and moral progress," he said.



ZAHANGIR ALOM

A three-day tourism photography exhibition and competition opened on March 1 at the National Art Gallery of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy.

Bangladesh Tourism Board, under the supervision of Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism, has organised the exhibition, titled "Beautiful Bangladesh". The exhibition was inaugurated by Khورشed Alam Chowdhury, Secretary to the Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism.

The subjects of the photographs are diverse: natural beauty, landscape, culture, heritage, rural lifestyle, harvest, food, historical sites, artifacts, river, forest, biodiversity and more of Bangladesh.

The participating photographers took their cameras in search of exquisite images from the Sundarbans to Bandarban, from north-eastern Haor region to St. Martin's Island, from river to forest, from Paharpur to Kantajir Mandir and other parts of Bangladesh. Impassable hills, unfathomable sea, pointed roots of mangrove forest did not appear as impediments to them. Almost all the seasons of Bangladesh have been conspicuously highlighted through the images.

The jury evaluated almost 4,000 entries from 139 contestants and from these, 180 images



The exhibition highlights tourist attractions and different facets of life in Bangladesh.

by 71 photographers were selected for the exhibition. The best three entries, excluding an honourable mention, will be awarded at the closing programme today (March 3, at 5pm) at the gallery. Col (Retd) Muhammad Faruk Khan, MP will hand over the prize money to the winners: the 1st with Taka 50,000; 2nd with Taka 35,000; 3rd with Taka 20,000 and the honourable mention with Taka 5,000.

MM Zahidur Rhaman Biplob has the largest number of entries at the exhibition, with 13 beautiful images selected. The accomplished photographer is clearly attracted to the natural beauty, landscape and pastoral lifestyle of Bangladesh. Biplob's works feature a cautious deer from the Sundarbans, a spider meticu-

lously weaving a web, the voyage of a bamboo fleet on a narrow creek, a successful kingfisher and more. As white clouds move along dancing with the azure of the sky on an autumnal kashphool river, it not only grips an art connoisseur but also anyone taking a peek.

All these images bring to light many facets of Bangladesh, some overly familiar and some surprisingly underexposed. Among those several images stood out as they captured the magnificence of moments.

And that's not all. Apart from scenic destinations and festivals, the exhibition also includes photos of historic and archaeological sites, indigenous lifestyle, flora and fauna. It is indeed a feast for the eyes.

Shaheed Munier Chowdhury remembered

In memory of Shaheed Munier Chowdhury, Department of Film and Theatre, Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) arranged a two-day commemorative programme. The programme was held from March 1 at National Theatre Hall of BSA. The programme featured a discussion on Shaheed Munier Chowdhury and staging of his plays, according to a press release.

Professor Anisuzzaman, chairman of Bangla Academy inaugurated the programme as chief guest while theatre personality Ramendu Majumdar, also president worldwide of International Theatre Institute graced the event as special guest. Liakat Ali Lucky, director general of BSA presided over the programme. Sara Ara Mahmud, director of Department of Film and Theatre, BSA; Professor Bishwajit Ghosh of the Department of Bengali Literature of Dhaka University took part as discussants.

Prof Bishwajit Ghosh was the key speaker on the opening day. He highlighted various aspects of the checkered life and works of Chowdhury. The speakers said that that Chowdhury was an educationist, cultural personality and playwright who raised his voice against all forms of superstition, religious bigotry and repression during the pre-independence period of the country. He was secular to the core of his heart.

The discussion was followed by the staging of "Dondo", written by Munier Chowdhury. Directed by Mohammad Jasim Uddin, the story of the play reveals the inequalities of social life through satire, absurdity and thoughts. Saki Farzana, Bidyut Sarkar and Mahbub Liton played different characters for the play.

The closing day (yesterday) of the programme featured a discussion and a show of Aranyak Natyadal's production, "Kabar", written by Munier Chowdhury. Theatre personality Mamunur Rashid spoke on the occasion.



A scene from the play.

Priyanka Chopra enters the realm of Item Songs

Bollywood star Priyanka Chopra has done it again. After hitting the cover of Vogue India recently, the talented actress has made news by demanding a whopping 2.8 crore rupees for her first item number "Babli Badmaash" that features in director Sanjay Gupta's "Shootout at Wadala"; the number has raised a few eyebrows as Priyanka charges the same sum for an entire film.

Priyanka is currently shooting for "Zanjeer" and "Gunday" but has managed time off for the song.

Balaji Motion Pictures that produces the film is on cloud nine at having roped in Priyanka for her first item song. Inner circles say that the number will be great promotion for the film. According to those in the know, Priyanka was asked to sing the item song, but ultimately singer Sunidhi Chauhan was roped in. The film is slated for a May 1 release.

Compiled by correspondent



BTV	01:05 Amrao Pari	09:50 Dhrupodi Kahini
	03:30 Onushandhan	12:05 Shimana Perley
	07:00 Bangladesh Bhramon	
	10:30 Ittyadi	Desh TV
		03:02 Gaan R Gaan
ATN BANGLA		06:30 Sanskritir Sharadesh
		08:15 Drama Serial: Radio Chocolate
	11:20 Business and Finance	09:45 Tribute to Legend
	01:25 Shurer Madhuri	
	06:15 Shustha Thakun	Maasranga Television
	11:30 Drama Serial: Boiri Batash	10:02 Bangla Feature Film
		06:30 Binodon Saradin
CHANNEL i		08:40 Drama Serial: Khonikaloy
	02:45 Goroey Goroey Gaaner Utshab	11:00 Tele-quiz
		CHANNEL 9
	06:20 Rupantar	09:00 Bangla Feature Film
	09:35 Garbo	11:00 Sports Daily
	11:30 Prokriti O Jibon	11:30 Shwadhinotar Shombhabonay
ntv		CHANNEL 24
	08:45 Bangla Feature Film	
	04:10 Janar Achhey Bolar	

RADIO		
abc Radio FM 89.2	10:00 Morning Express	
09:30 Edik Odik	12:30 No Tension	
05:30 Kacha Lanka	04:00 Dhaka Calling	
06:30 Mitha Kara	09:00 Full Volume	
07:20 GP Lounch	11:00 Back to Back music	
07:45 Megh Barata	RADIO TODAY FM 89.6	
09:30 Love Hour	06:00 Green FM	
11:10 Hindi Hits	08:00 Good Morning Dhaka	
RADIO FOORTI	12:00 Today's Adda	
07:30 Hello Dhaka	04:00 U Turn	

Idiots
On CHANNEL 9 at 10:15pm
Drama Serial
Cast: Chanchal Chowdhury, Purnima

Ip Man
On HBO at 07:20pm
Genre: Action/Biography
Cast: Donnie Yen, Simon Yam & Siu-Wong Fan

Tele-quiz
On Maasranga Television at 11:00pm
Quiz Show
Guest: Mukit Zakaria, Nafisa

06:15 Achhey	08:00 Shopping & Cocking
09:00 Shubho Shondhya	08:30 Travel Show
	09:00 Drama Serial: Ashin
	Gtv
ETV	11:30 Bangla Feature Film
03:30 Ekushey-er Business	05:45 Ei Shondhyai
04:30 Documentary: Jibon Brittey	09:35 Drama Serial: Jonani
06:30 Desh Jurey Oporadh	
	Fox Movies
	01:40 Kingdom of Heaven
	04:05 The Woman In Black
12:05 Ekushey-er Raat	05:45 Zombieland
	09:30 The Grey
Boishakhi TV	11:30 Shanghai Noon
06:15 Bangla Feature Film	
	HBO
	05:22 A Guy Thing
	07:20 Ip Man
11:00 Reporters Dairy	09:30 Johnny English Reborn
11:30 Praner Mela	12:00 Conan the Destroyer
BANGLAVISION	
01:05 Bangla Feature Film	
06:05 Ebong Class-er Bairrey	
08:15 Drama Serial: Ladies First	
	National Geographic Channel
	03:30 Fin Fighters
	08:30 Man hunt
11:25 Business Vision	09:30 Ultimate Predator
	10:30 Scam City
Rtv	
12:35 Bangla Feature Film	
07:35 Drama Serial: Thanar Nam Shonir Akhra	
	Discovery Channel
	02:30 Man vs. Wild
	04:30 One Car Too Far

DRAMA SERIAL		
ATN BANGLA	09:05pm Red Signal	
08:40pm Shongshar Shukher	Rtv	
	09:05pm Oloshpur	
CHANNEL i		
ntv	08:15pm Oghoton Ghoton	
07:50pm Noorjahan	Potiyoshi	
ETV		
09:30pm Pancho Premik	Desh TV	
Boishakhi TV	07:45pm Saatkahon	
09:20pm Ognipath	Maasranga Television	
BANGLAVISION	08:00pm Hashi Bari	

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

TALK SHOW		
ATN BANGLA	01:00am Onno Drishti	Muktabak
CHANNEL i	12:30pm Taroka Kothon	Boishakhi TV
ntv		12:00am Zero Hour
12:00am Ei Shomoy		Rtv
ETV	10:10pm Media Gossip	11:20pm Our Democracy
CHANNEL 24	12:05am Modhyaater	Desh TV
		11:45pm Shoja Katha
		Maasranga Television
		12:02am Shampratik
		Gtv