

Venue: Bengal Art Lounge

baddie of Bollywood

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

As a young man, he wanted to be a photographer; but he ended up in front of the camera, and Bollywood got one of its mos respected actors and a towering 'villain'. Pran Krishan Sikand, popularly known

as Pran, died in a hospital in Mumbai or Friday night after prolonged illness at the age of 93, bringing down the curtains on a career of over 400 films that spanned more than six decades. Pran will be forever remembered for

bringing on-screen villains on par with the but a chance meeting with writer Wali heroes, ruling the industry from 1969 to 1982. He commanded equal respect for hi negative characters in "Madhumati", "Jis the world of cinema in 1940. He played Desh Mein Ganga Behti Hai", "Ram Aur the hero in the film opposite Noorjehan and it became a hit and the pair starred Shyam" and "Devdas".

Sometimes his role was more prominent and central to a film than the hero, as were the cases in "Victoria No 203" (along with Ashok Kumar) and "Dharma". He even got to sing one of Bollywood's most popular songs, "Yaari hai imaan mera yaar meri zindagi" in "Zanjeer" (1973) -- the film that catapulted Amitabh Bachchan to

The actor took on myriad persona in his films -- ranging from lecherous villain in "Madhumati", suave and scheming baddie in "Jab Pyaar Kisi Se Hota Hai", village dacoit in "Jis Des Mein Ganga Behti Hai", and the comic villain in "Half-Ticket". His flair for comedy was also evident in films where he played the good guy, such as "Victoria No 203", "Jungle Mein Mangal and "Kasauti".

INF YEAR OIV

Stars think back on Humayun Ahmed







Ahmed. I was fortunate enough to be

close to such a talented person. There

addas always kept everyone in good

was a time when we grew very close. His

spirits during shooting breaks. My perfor-

mance in his "Srabon Megher Din" won

me a National Film Award. I also worked

in "Amar Achhe Jol". It's a strange feeling

to realise that a year has passed since he

Shadhin Khoshru:

The unstoppable

The credit for my iden-

tity as an actor belongs

Humayun Ahmed: at the home he built with a lot of love, Nuhash Polli.

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Pran's baritone voice and good looks

helped him bring charm to his villainy - a

helped Pran transform himself from one of

the most hated onscreen villains to one of

unforgettable Sher Khan opposite Amitabh

unique feat. His chameleon-like ability

the most loved character-actors -- be it

Mangal chacha in "Upkar" (1967), the

Bachchan in "Zanjeer" (1973) or disci-

Pran Kishan Sikand was born on

February 12, 1920, to a civil engineer in

Delhi. He wanted to be a photographer

Punjabi film "Yamala Jat", brought him to

And then there was no looking back for

With a string of powerful performances,

Pran at one stage commanded almost the

same payments and sometimes more than

onscreen hero, and his name would appear

the popularity of Pran in the 1970s that he

In May this year, the veteran actor was

conferred India cinema's highest honour -the Dada Saheb Phalke award, an honour

many thought came quite late in his life.

alongside that of the lead actor. Such was

was among the highest paid actors in

Indian cinema, ahead of the likes of

Amitabh Bachchan and Vinod Khanna.

Mohammad Wali, who was writing

together in their first Hindi film

Pran who starred in films like

(1945) and "Badnami "(1946).

"Chaudhary" (1941), "Kaise Kahun"

in Gulzar's "Parichay".

pline-loving but soft-hearted grandfather

Arriving on the literary scene with novels like "Nondito Noroke" and "Shonkhonil Jayanta Chattapaddhay: Karagar", Humayun Ahmed was an imme- As far as I can tell, I've diate favourite among readers. His skills with the pen did not go unnoticed by the Ahmed in almost all critics, as he became the recipient of the prestigious Bangla Academy award at an early age, and the Ekushey Padak later in relationship was not

The author, who enjoyed unprece dented levels of popularity, also won accolades as a playwright and director. He created timeless classics like "Kothao Keu Nei", "Bohubrihi", "Oyomoy" and "Eishob Dinratri" for the television, while making a new record for National Film Awards with his celluloid feature "Aguner Poroshmoni". The creator of literary characters like Himu, Misir Ali and Shubhro breathed

his last on July 19, 2012, while undergoing medical treatment in New York. On Munmun Ahmed: his first death anniversary today, many stars who worked with the maestro gave

their take on how he had influenced their Kena". I went on to do

worked with Humayun his projects – be it TV dramas or films. Our confined to the artistedirector label. We were

very close. There were only a few people who would address Humayun Ahmed as 'tumi'; I was one of those few. There are countless memories with him that I cherish. It's hard to even imagine that he is gone. We had wonderful chitchats during the shooting of "Ghetuputro Komola". I've never met a more knowledgeable person than him. I miss him every step of my life.

My first work with Humayun Ahmed was in the drama "Shawkat Shaheber Gaari

many more TV plays with him. We had so many memorable conversations during the shooting for "Amar Achhe Jol" in

Sylhet. My final work with him was in "Ghetuputro Komola". Humayun Ahmed had a long standing relationship with my family, and we saw him as a guardian. Whenever I visited Nuhash Palli, he would show me the trees that he had collected. He once gave me lychees from his tree and advised that I should make 'Achaar' with the sour ones. I get emotional whenever I talk about him. A person like him needed to be with us for a longer time.

Zahid Hassan: In my acting career, most of the TV dramas that brought me the

Since her successes at the Lux

Superstar pageant, Bindu has

been an unstoppable force in

the media --topping many of

scene. The actress, who is a popular face in TV dramas,

recently spoke to The Daily

Star about her recent assign-

How busy are you with Eid

Bindu: Most of my current

Already, I've done around 20

Eid, with more in the off-

on the quality of the plays

Which one of those did

telefilm, where I act opposite model momentum till the 20th episode,

Bindu: I worked in two plays by Kolkata films at the start of the year,

hour-play called "Kudduser Murgi schedule also kept me from working

Prem". I laughed a lot when I heard in a Kolkata serial I was offered. My

characters are all different. satisfied with a performance which the audience can also enjoy.

Mir Sabbir this Eid. One was a one- but couldn't find time. My busy

Sabbir's dramas for the last couple Kolkata films and dramas?

and not the numbers.

Nobel. The story of the telefilm is

other project was a five-episode

be aired on Boishakhi TV. I play

Do you think the Eid dra-

opposite Zahid Hassan in the

mas are a little one-

You've been a part of Mir

you enjoy the most?

very interesting.

of Eids. Tell us more.

ing. However, I always focus

dramas and telefilms for

her contemporaries in the

ments and more.

works are Eid dramas.

completely to Humayun Ahmed. He brought me to the world of acting. There was a time, when I was in all of his dramas and films. I had the chance to travel to

many countries with him. He was not only a popular author-playwright, he was also a wonderful human being. I learned a lot from him. Sometimes, it's hard to believe that Humayun Ahmed is no more. I feel like I've lost a guardian.

Recently, I took a break for a couple

of months from acting. During that

time, the scripts that I received were

monotonous stories. So this time, I

can strongly say that I chose the Eid

dramas because each of them is

Would you share one such

Bindu: I can mention a very

unique drama by Matia Banu, which

will be aired on SA TV. Birds play a

enjoyed working with birds. I did

another Eid drama, where I play a

con artist who tricks everyone to

steal money. Another project I did

You have been absent from

Bindu: I choose to stay out

because I have no faith in the scripts

that I'm offered. When I go through

the scripts, I see that the serials have

You were also offered spots in

Bindu: I was offered roles in two

first priority remains working on

What is the viewership like for

Bindu: I believe that Eid is the

eager to watch TV plays. They watch

more plays during Eid, than the rest

of the year. That's why I work extra

hard for the Eid plays, so that I'm

only time when viewers are truly

projects in my own country.

hundreds of Eid dramas?

but fade out soon after. I avoid

doing serials for this reason.

was completely action-based.

serials. What's the reason?

huge role in the drama, and I

all similar. I turned them down

because I don't want to pursue

astage

Dhaka Theatre turns 40

NAZIBA BASHER

Almost 40 years ago, a group of friends, right after fighting the Liberation War side by side, still felt a kind of emptiness. They had brought freedom to their motherland, but they felt there was something more they could do.

After a period of thoughts and plans, Dhaka Theatre was born. The prime movers were Nasiruddin Yousuff Bachchu, Shafiqur Rahman Syed Salahuddin Zaki, Raisul Islam Asad, Selim Al Deen and a few others. Forty years later, on July 29, Dhaka Theatre celebrates its triumph and success in taking this country further through the medium of theatre and culture.

"I wouldn't say it was a smooth journey. We sailed through an ocean of big waves, but here we are, celebrating our 40th year and we are still going strong," says Nasiruddin Yousuff, current director and organiser of Dhaka Theatre. Dhaka Theatre has been successful in its attempt to revolutionise theatre in Bangladesh.

"We have established the concept of 'Paachali Natok'--storytellingbased drama. Along with that, we have introduced classical theatre, classical realism theatre and mucl more. We have also blended other art forms into theatre like dancing and singing. With all these combined, I would say Dhaka Theatre has definitely come a long way," continues Bachchu.

In celebration of their 40th anniversary, Dhaka Theatre will stage a medley of performances of some of their biggest hits -- "Shongbad Cartoon", "Kittankhola", "Muntasir Fantasy", "Shakuntala", "Keramot



Mangal", "Haat Hodai" and "Bono Pangshul", to name a few. Through this celebration, some of the biggest names in the Bengali film and theatre industry and veteran members who have moved on to different lives in different places, who have emerged from Dhaka Theatre, are all making a comeback on stage. Those returning on the stage of Dhaka Theatre after an interregnum are Fakhrul Basher Masum, Afzal Hossain, Raisul Islam Asad, Zahiruddin Peyar, Shomi Kaiser and Shubhashish Bhowmik. Joining them will be existing members and

"I still see Dhaka Theatre moving forward on this wonderful journey that we have embarked upon 40 years ago. But I don't think I will be in-charge throughout all their triumphs. I plan on working on two more production of Selim Al Deen and maybe a couple of more foreign productions, but after that, I will probably be retiring from my post,"

Forty years into the journey surrounded by the wonder that is theatre, everyone who has been a part of this institution, new and old, has had a special bond with it -- a certain kind of passion to keep going and taking themselves further along with it. In a span of four decades, we have witnessed Dhaka Theatre produce some of the biggest names in the industry: Shimul Yusuff, Suborna Mustafa, Humayun Faridee, Raisul Islam Asad, Shahiduzzaman Selim, Pijush Bandhyopadhyay, Afzal Hossain, Shomi Kaiser and many more; the streak continues as more talented individuals continue to emerge from this prestigious institution.



Aly Zake WEEKENDER unwinds in productivity

FAHMIM FERDOUS

Aly Zaker is a colossal figure in the country's cultural arena. Even at the age of 69, he remains busy with his work on theatre, running a company, and writing. But even a man of his level of drive needs to take a break sometime. How does he do that? The Daily Star looked to find out. How are your weekends usually spent?

Zaker: There's no definite set, really. I have various engagements in the cultural arena even on weekends, so I attend to them. Apart from that, our theatre troupe has found a new timing for rehearsal: on weekend mornings till lunch. We have found that it's a very good time as there's very little interruption. We're currently rehearsing on our new production "Galelio Galelei" -- to be first staged in August. We don't rehearse every weekend, though. If you do have a day or two when the

schedules are not packed.. Zaker: I usually go out of the city. We



Gazipur. It's no very far so I visit quite often. It lets me out the hustle and bustle of the city. I am also writing, and I usually write more than one book simultaneously, so I keep a little time

Is there anything specific you're working on right now? Zaker: I am currently compiling a 'coffee-

table book' of my pictures. It's going to be some 200 pages, with narrations by me. I'm really excited about it.

Is there any activity that you enjoy in

particular on your leisure? Zaker: I love to take photos. Whenever go out of Dhaka, I love taking my camera with me; and even inside the city. I also love cycling, so if there is an opportunity, I

take out my bike and go for a ride. Do you get to travel on extended holidays or vacations?

Zaker: Unfortunately, that hasn't happened in the last couple of years. But I have had to go to Singapore for medical reasons, so we try to sort of convert them into vacations, have a good time. However, we're thinking of taking a vacation soon; we haven't pinned down a place, though.

PHOTO COURTESY: ALY ZAKER

Chhayanaut's homage to Bipul Bhattacharya

As homage to Shadhin Bangla Betar Kendra artiste Bipul Bhattacharya, Chhayanaut is holding a memorial programme at its auditorium today at 11 am, according to a press release. Bipul Bhattacharya was a folk music teacher at Chhayanaut.

Cultural personalities, fellow artistes, colleagues among others will remember the recently deceased artiste at the programme that will also feature choral folk songs performance and screening of the film "Muktir Gaan", directed by Tareque and Catherine Masud. The director duo once mentioned in a comment on Bipul Bhattacharya: "Bipul Bhattacharya is the soul of 'Muktir Gaan'. His voice, singing uplifting folk songs about the Liberation War, infuses the film with power and grace. Without Bipul Bhattacharya, there would be no

An active artiste of Bangladesh Mukti Sangrami Shilpi Sangstha during the country's War of Liberation in 1971, Bhattacharya's songs inspired the freedom fighters during the War of Liberation in 1971. He was only 16 then. The songs ignited the patriotic sentiments of the common people as well as the soldiers on the battlefield.



NEWS

RDJ named Forbes' highest-paid actor

Robert Downey Jr, star of "The Avengers" and "Iron Man 3", has topped Forbes' list of highest-paid actors, with estimated earnings of \$75 million. In second place is Channing Tatum, who financed and starred in "Magic Mike". Directed by Steven Soderbergh, it made \$167 million, contributing to the actor's \$60 million pay. Completing the top three is Australian actor Hugh Jackman, whose new film "The Wolverine" is about to open in the UK. He is thought to have earned \$55 million in the same period - June 2012 to June 2013.

Other stars in the top 10 include Mark Wahlberg, Adam Sandler, Denzel Washington, last year's topper Tom Cruise, Leonardo DiCaprio and Liam Neeson.

It's True !

In 2001, Bob Marley was posthumously awarded the Grammy Lifetime Achievement Award, and a feature length documentary about his life, "Rebel Music", won various awards at the Grammys. With contributions from Rita, The Wailers, and Marley's lovers and children, it also tells much of the story in his own words. Internationally, Marley's message also continues to reverberate amongst various indigenous communities. For instance, the Australian Aborigines continue to burn a sacred flame to honour his memory in Sydney's Victoria Park, while members of the Amerindian Hopi and Havasupai tribe revere his work. There are also many tributes to Bob Marley throughout India, including restaurants, hotels, and cultural festivals.



Kamol Dasgupta on GAAN-ER OPAREY

A CORRESPONDENT

Marking the death anniversary (July 20) and birth anniversary (July 28) of legendary composermusician Kamol Dasgupta, satellite TV channel EIV's regular musical programme "Gaan-er Oparey has been arranged differently. "Gaan-er Oparey will have songs composed by Dasgupta in all the four episodes this July.

Dasgupta's son Shafin Ahmed will perform music on the first and last week of July while Sushmita Anis and Alif will perform Dasgupta's

compositions on the second and third week respectively. Produced by Mohsina Rahman, "Gaan-er Oparey" is aired every Friday at 8:20pm. Dasgupta was the legend who created a bold identity in the sphere of Bangla music during the

Rabindra-Nazrul era (1930s and 1940s). Dasgupta not only managed to dominate the contemporary Bangla music scene, but also made a breakthrough as an uber-popular composer of Urdu/Hindi geet and ghazal. Dasgupta composed many songs penned by our National Poet Kazi



Images of "Bakshir Haat" Video art and photo documentary exhibition at Dhaka Art Centre

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

JOG Alternative Art Space will organise a video art and photo documentary exhibition titled "Bakshir Haat", featuring the works of a number of Chittagong- based artists. The exhibition begins today at Dhaka Art Centre in

The participating artists are Rupayan Barua, Zahed Ali, Shaela Sharmin, Shohrab Jahan, Raju Achariya, Zihan Karim, Omar Faruk, Kumar Biswas, Hussain Mahmud, Suchayan Paul, Mishuk Ahsan, Farhana Preya, Jublee Dewan and Riyad Mahmud

Bakshir Haat is an old market place in Chittagong that had a unique identity because of its geographical location. A long time ago, river Karnaphuli was close to the Bakshir Haat, an important trading point. The place is undergoing a transition; the old town is rapidly being replaced by new buildings, roads and surroundings. To preserve the past and witness the changes of that place, Jog Alternative Art Space has taken Bakshir Haat as its subject for its first photo-documentary workshop. The participating artists have documented through their lens the everyday life and other aspects of Bakshir Haat. The exhibition will continue till July 29.