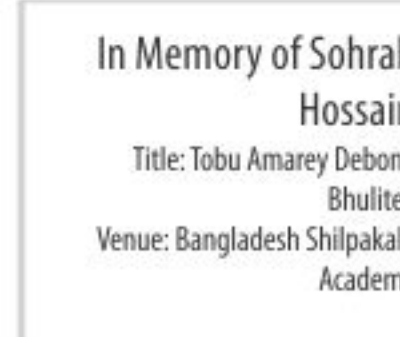


WHAT'S ON



Zainul Quamrul Exhibition
Venue: Nalini Kanta Bhattacharya Gallery, National Museum
Date: Dec 22-Jan 18
Time: 10am-8pm



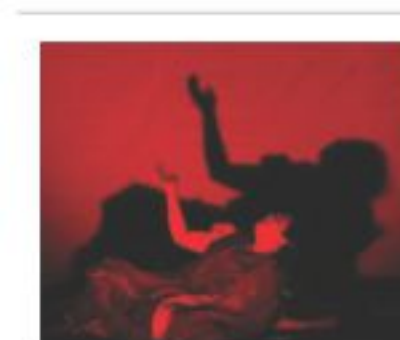
In Memory of Sohrab Hossain
Title: Tobu Amary Debona Bhullary
Venue: Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy



Group Art Exhibition
Title: Shilpakarya and his Duter World of Art
Venue: Bengal Shilpalaya, H-42, B-16, Dharmad
Date: Dec 28-Jan 8



Solo Ghazal Evening
Artist: Aloke Kumar Sen
Venue: Indira Gandhi Cultural Centre, H-35, Rd-24, Gulshan-1
Date: Dec 27
Time: 6:30pm



Theatre
Play: Lay Sunn
Troupe: Shannun
Venue: Studio Theatre Hall, Shilpakala Academy
Date: Dec 27



Solo Art Exhibition
Title: City of Rhythm
Artist: Kazi Salahuddin Ahmed
Venue: Shilpakala Gallery, Dharmad
Date: Dec 20-Jan 2
Time: 12pm-6pm



Architectural Exhibition
Architect: Kashif Chowdhury
Venue: Bengal Art Lounge, Gulshan
Date: Dec 13-Jan 13
Time: 12pm-8pm



Musical Soiree
Organiser: Sreezon
Venue: Sofia Kamal Auditorium, National Museum
Date: Dec 28
Time: 6:30pm

NEWS bytes



Keanu rules out Point Break remake

Film star Keanu Reeves has ruled out the possibility of starring in a remake of his 1991 action hit "Point Break". Asked by BBC 5 live if he would like to be involved, Reeves said: "Absolutely not. It's not my place."

After expressing reservations about the quality of the project, he added: "If they can find a way to do it that works out good, then God bless them."

He went on to speculate that some films - such as "Wizard of Oz" or "Apocalypse Now" - should have a "no remake clause."

Directed by Kathryn Bigelow - who went on to win an Oscar for The Hurt Locker - "Point Break" became a cult hit in the 1990s and a sequel had been rumoured for many years. The death of Patrick Swazie in 2009 made that plan unlikely, and two years later film company Alcon Entertainment announced it would embark on a remake instead.

Source: BBC

Remembering Khaled!

"Life's but a walking shadow, a poor player, That struts and frets his hour upon the stage, And then is heard no more. It is a tale Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury, Signifying nothing."

These are the oft-quoted lines from Shakespeare's famous tragedy "Macbeth" and, quite extensively used in the obituary references of most actors, Khaled Khan more than deserves this quote on his passing away at a relatively young age. And his time for discovering that life was full of sound and fury was still farfetched



ALY ZAKER

Khaled, a University student came to our group in 1979. He used to sit in our rehearsal room for hours on end watching the rehearsals of various plays intently. It always seemed that he was quite happy just being involved watching rehearsals and did not have any other ambition. Besides that, he used to be eagerly involved in all errands connected with theatre. Little did we know then about the talent he had for acting and direction.

His first foray into regular staging of plays did not come until our group needed a replacement of a chorus character of by far the most popular play of the group, "Dewan Gazir Kissa", a free adaptation of "Puntilla and His Man Matti" by Bertolt Brecht. This was a singing chorus and Khaled did a wonderful job in his very first



appearance. To the best of my knowledge all senior members of Nagorik had an eye on Khaled and wanted to cast him in a major role. The onus, however, fell on me when I had a chance to choose for the character of Panchak in the play "Achalayatan" by Rabindranath Tagore. Earlier, Khaled worked on the script of this play with me for days on end, sometimes well into the night. Initially I, as the director of this play, cast somebody else as Panchak. This character merited a very competent actor with the ability to sing Rabindra Sangeet. But the actor selected for this role suddenly left abroad and I was not sure if "Achalayatan" would see the light of the day.

One evening I was brooding with the idea of a possible replacement. Khaled came to me and very humbly said that he would like to give it a try. By then he had already established himself as a deserving

actor with his acting acumen and ability to work hard. The rest is history. He set an example of finest acting of a Tagore play on stage through his rendition of Panchak. That was the beginning. "The Captain of Kopernik", "Nuroldiner Shantajibon", "Dorpon", "Irsha", and "Roktokorobi" - each of these plays more than established him as one of the fore-runners in acting on our stage. I am often asked about the depth of talent Khaled had that took him so far. I would submit that more than talent it was his discipline, eagerness, love for the art and ceaseless hard work that made him what he was. This should serve as an example for the young and aspiring actors of our country. No art could be mastered effortlessly. Khaled proved that love's labour is seldom lost.

The writer is an eminent actor and director.

OUR PICK

Home Alone: The Holiday Heist

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

With Christmas right around the corner and schools and colleges closed, it is the perfect time to watch movies. While going through the latest movies can be exciting, ones themed on the holidays are an equally good idea. "Home Alone" is one of the most popular film franchises of its time, and never cease to entertain; the fifth and final instalment of the series to date, "The Holiday Heist" fits perfectly into the theme of wintry holidays, mischief and thrills.

Although the regular protagonist of the franchise Kevin McCallister is not part of this one (much like "Home Alone 3"), the story-line is as interesting. The Baxter family -- with two

technophile kids, Finn (Christian Martin) and Alexis (Jodie Perland) -- has just moved to Maine from California just before Christmas. A group of thieves attempt a burglary in the house to nick a famous painting, unaware that the kids are home, but fail in their first attempt as the house-owners come back. The next night, the kids are again left home, but forbidden from doing what they love most -- Finn from playing video games and Alexis from being on the phone constantly. But the film being Home Alone, Finn inevitably breaks the rules that lead the duo into a confusing encounter with the thieves who have returned for the painting. With Alexis locked inside a safe and the parents stuck due to a worsening snowstorm, Finn tries out everything he can,

from seeking help from Simon, an online gaming friend of his, to setting up booby traps for the thieves (one of the hallmarks of the franchise). Chaos ensues as miscommunication forces the Baxters to assume Simon as a kidnapper, and the police get involved. Through typical twists and turns in the tale, the thieves are eventually caught and all is merry again.

Directed by Peter Hewitt and distributed by ABC Family, the film also features Malcolm McDowell, Debi Mazar, Eddie Steeples, Ellie Harvie, Doug Murray, Edward Asner and Peter DaCunha, among others. Released in November 25 last year, it found fair popularity among the followers of the franchise, and was overall a success in the box office.



RTV turns nine

A CORRESPONDENT

Satellite TV channel RTV turned nine on Wednesday. To mark the day, the RTV family members along with invited guests cut an anniversary cake at midnight on December 25. Chief guest, Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Hasanul Haque Inu with Director General of BTM M Hamid, ministers -- Shahjahan Khan (shipping) and Mujibul Haque (Railways) were present on the occasion.

Political, cultural and eminent personalities visited the TV station daylong, presenting bouquets and wishing a smooth journey for the coming years.

Popular singers performed live music at RTV's Bengal Studio where various stalls were set up. Special programmes were aired on the channel marking the day.

Boishakhi TV's ninth anniversary

A CORRESPONDENT

Satellite TV channel Boishakhi turns nine today. To mark the occasion, the Boishakhi family along with invited guests cut an anniversary cake at midnight. Information and Cultural Affairs Minister Hasanul Haque Inu was present as chief guest on the occasion.

People from political and cultural circuit will cut another anniversary cake at 11am today. Special programmes including musical and talk shows will be aired on the channel marking the day.



Hanging out with Ishana on weekends

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lux Superstar Ishana is making it big both as model and actor on the small screen. Despite her hectic routine, Ishana manages to squeeze in a little leisure time. She recently talked to The Daily Star about her hang out time...

How do you spend most of your time on your day off?

Ishana: I usually stay at home. I watch movies late into the night and get up late. Just enjoy my free moments.

What's the first thing on your mind when you wake up on a holiday?

Ishana: Definitely, a cup of coffee. I feel I feel energised when I take a sip of coffee in the mornings.

What do you enjoy most during your spare time?

Ishana: Nowadays, there are holidays galore what with hartal and blockades. Besides I like to go shopping at night. Sometimes I glance through the script of a play. I also visit my aunt's home in the capital and hang out with friends. India beckons me and I enjoy shopping there. Apart from this, I visit Rangamati and Cox's Bazar. Cox's Bazar is my favourite travel destination.

What food items are most available in your refrigerator?

Ishana: Different types of fruits and chocolate.

What is usually on your breakfast menu?

Ishana: I generally prefer light food. I mostly have fresh fruit and juice. I generally avoid oily food for breakfast.

What do you prefer more -- reading or watching movies?

Ishana: I usually watch a lot of movies, especially during holidays. But I also like to read. The latest film we watched at the cinema hall was "Nishwartho Bhalaobasha". I'm a big fan of Humayun Ahmed's writing, and have finished all his volumes. I'm now into writings of Samresh Majumder.

Tell us about your favourite food...

Ishana: Almost anything cooked by my mother. She takes extra care making my favourite dishes during vacations. Fried pumpkin flowers are one item that I love! Another favourite is hilsa eggs.

Year-end roundup

SHAH ALAM SHAZU

The TV scenario of the country has witnessed many ups and downs in 2013. Some artists remained at the head of the pack while others dropped by the wayside. Meanwhile, a few got married and some left a vacuum with their demise. A number of stars burst on the scene while many TV plays won critical acclaim.

A round up of the happenings over the last year: Mehzaben made it big this year, getting raves for a Lux TVC.

Ishana emerged as a successful actor-cum-model. Model Toya also received the adulation of many. Srabasti Dutt Tinni was rarely seen in front of the camera, except for a single play. Similarly, Sarika also appeared in only a few TV plays.

Prova, meanwhile, appeared in several entertaining plays.

The ball remained in Zahid Hasan's court this year. He became the talk of the industry as a successful drama director, model and actor. He played three characters in the well-received play "Kortakahani".

Mosharaf Karim also did well. His serial "Red Signal" earned him immense fame. He was equally successful as a drama director. Likewise, Chanchal Chowdhury proved a popular figure in the acting arena.

Mahfuz Ahmed continued directing and acting. Aporbo was busy too. He made his debut on celluloid this year.

Shahiduzzaman Selim's presence was quite central in the media industry.

However, actresses who won many hearts in 2013 were, Tisha, Sumiya Shimu, Bidya Sinha Mim and Momo.

Prominent model Sadia Islam Mou became a familiar face in acclaimed TV plays.



Farzana Chobi was often spotted playing offbeat characters.

Sajal and Bindu were very busy with one-hour plays. Runa Khan too, decided to take a break from serials and concentrate on one-hour plays and telefilms.

Naznin Hasan Chumki directed several TV plays after a long hiatus, while Shomi Kaiser acted in a play at the end of the year.

The hugely popular Jaya Ahsan was rarely seen on the small screen as she had ventured out to the silver screen. A commercial movie of Jaya, titled "Punodairgho Prem Kahani" was released in 2013.



SYED MAQSUD JAMIL

Peter O'Toole was an actor only one of his kind--the master thespian. When he performed he used every muscle in his face every fibre in his personality every tenor in his voice.

His first notable role was that of T. E. (Thomas Edward) Lawrence in David Lean's "Lawrence of Arabia". The film had a constellation of famous actors Alec Guinness, Anthony Quinn, Omar Sharif and Jack Hawkins. Peter O'Toole with the Arab headgear Keffiyeh and Arab robe thawb looked statuesque. The film depicts Lawrence's military attacks on Aqaba and Damascus. He was however caught in emotional conflicts about killing, about the covert nature of British design and his camaraderie with Arab fighters. He had his reverses once caught by Turks when he was flogged and abused. He had an overwhelming presence in the film. It is regarded as one of the ten great performances in cinematic history. Lawrence of Arabia was first of eight nominations he received for Best Actor Oscar Award. Gregory Peck got the Oscar Award for "To Kill a Mocking Bird". Peter O'Toole did not get Oscar Award for any of his eight nominations.

Lawrence of Arabia (1962) was followed by "Becket" in 1964. It is the story of King Henry II of England and his protégé Thomas Becket, about how friendship turns into fury when ecclesiastical uprightness would not serve unrighteous commands of an irreligious monarch. The film had Peter O'Toole as King Henry II, Richard Burton as Becket. When the Archbishop of Canterbury was treating Henry as a "perennial adolescent" he removed him and made Becket the Archbishop. When Becket became increasingly pious and would not acquiesce to the wrongdoings of Henry he fell from grace. In one instance Henry blurted out "Becket is the only intelligent man in my entire kingdom...and he is against me!" Peter O'Toole's delivery of the dialogue was the ultimate in cinematic acting. Every muscle in his face quivered, his lips twitched. Finally,

of the local chieftain. He met the chieftain and willingly took a fatal bullet from him in his chest. He had that same inimitable performing excellence in Lord Jim.

The next Peter O'Toole movie was "The Night of the Generals" (1967). General Tann (Peter O'Toole) of German Army is a psychopathic killer of proscriptions. A Polish prostitute is sadistically murdered in Warsaw in 1942. Major Graul (Omar Sharif) of German Intelligence Agency is investigating the murder. Peter O'Toole's portrayal of General Tann was stunningly real when he exclaimed to his subordinate "How dare you touch my hand!" His icy gaze



the third time for the Oscar but the Award went to Cliff Robertson for the film "Charley". Katherine Hepburn however got the Best Actress Award - her third.

"Goodbye Mr. Chips" (1969) was the fourth film for which Peter O'Toole was nominated for Oscar Award but did not get it. The Award went to John Wayne for "True Grit". Goodbye Mr. Chips is the story of school teacher Mr. Chipping. He lovingly became Mr. Chips. Mr. Chips was conservative, disciplinarian and pedantic. In spite of it his keen sense of humour made him exceedingly popular in his long career. Peter O'Toole made it a gem of a character.

Eyes on the small screen

Meanwhile, she continued shooting for "Zero Degree".

In 2013, actress Mummun mainly appeared as TV anchor. Like Mummun, actress Nawshin was seen emceeing frequently. Likewise, Bijori Barkatullah and Samia were busy anchoring different programmes.

Tania Ahmed, Ria, Tania Hossain and Nova also ventured into acting and anchoring.

Popular host Hanif Sanket's "Ityadi" secured top ranking in the print media.

In her short career, Lux Superstar Rakhi displayed her spunk as an actor and model. However, she went to Australia for further studies mid-2013.

Tariq Anam Khan, a veteran thespian, ventured in playback, in the movie "Desha -- the Leader".

Monir Khan Shimul made his debut as a drama director in "Bhuuter Bari".

A book, titled "Ekjon Mohanayaker Kotha" on the life of late actor Bulbul Ahmed was published at the end of the year. Azizul Hakim turned author with the publication of his book, "Galpo Noi Kalpo Noi". A novel, penned by Bidha Sinha Mim was also published. After a long hiatus, Tarin emceed a musical programme named "Gane Alapone".

Daughter of famed poet Nirmolendu Guin, Mritika Guin directed a telefilm, titled "Raghabhoal".

In 1999, Oindrila came into the spotlight after her appearance in a drama serial. Though she had assumed a low profile, this year she acted in a play "Roud". Apart from this, she was critically acclaimed as a model in a Grameenphone TVC.

On the other hand, wedding bells rang for Rumana Malik Mummun, while Bijori Barkatullah tied the knot with Inteqab Dinab. Drama director Redwan Rony also got married.

Asif's TVC for Pran of model made his a familiar face on Indian TV channels.

TV WATCH

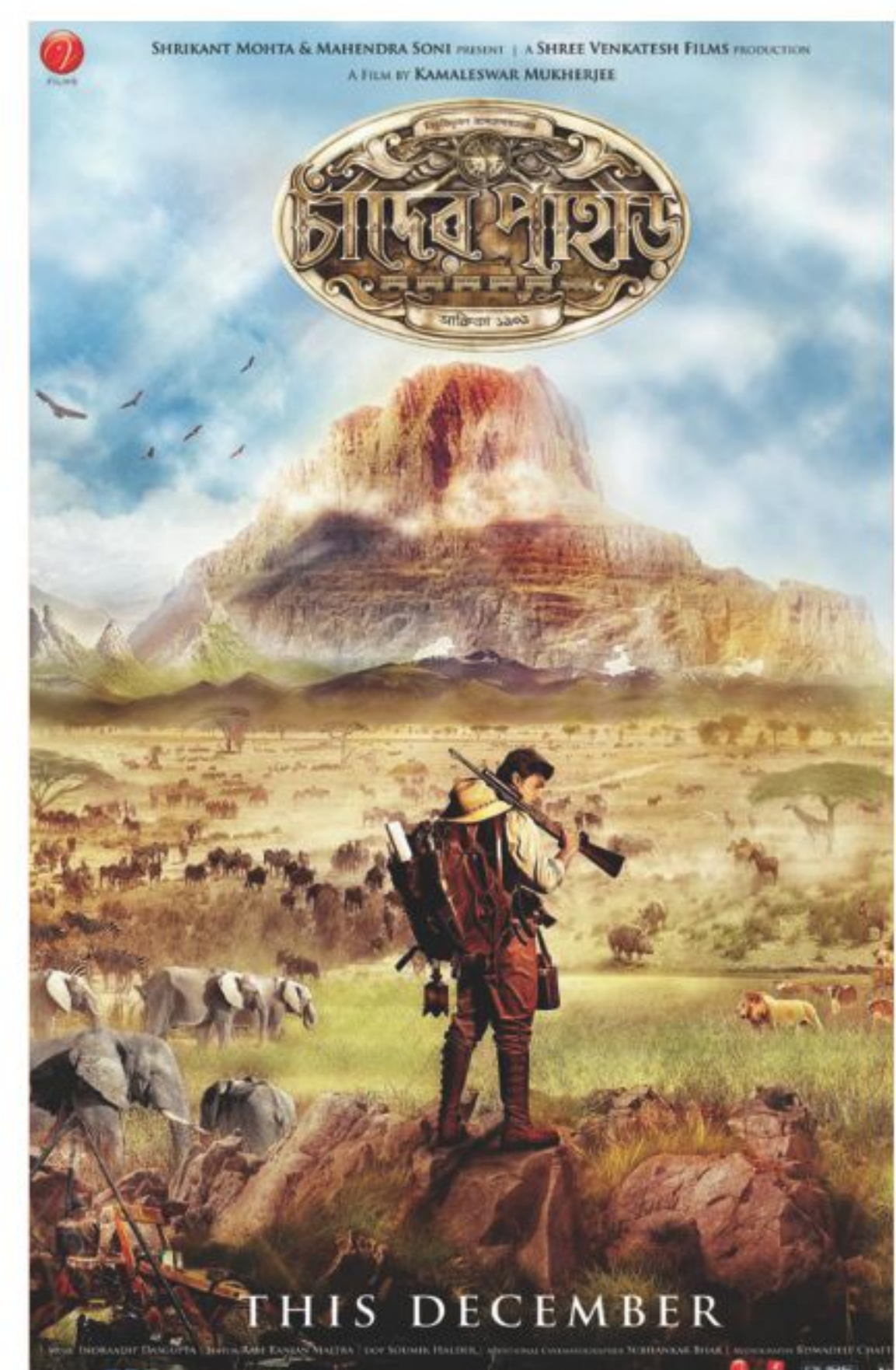
Editor's Guest on Maasranga Television



A CORRESPONDENT

A special talk show titled "Editor's Guest" will be aired tonight on Maasranga Television at 7:30pm. The programme, hosted by chief executive and chief editor of Maasranga, Syed Fahim Munaim, will have Pankaj Saran, High Commissioner of India in Dhaka, as guest. He will speak on the country's politics, economics, diplomatic and bilateral relations between the two countries and the role of the media and future prospects.

CHANDER PAHAR creates a buzz



PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is rarely that Bangla films, other than those made by Satyajit Ray, Ritvik Ghatak, Mrinal Sen or Buddhadeb Dasgupta, are talked about in the Indian media. But that is precisely what is happening with director Kamalashwar Mukhopadhyay's latest work "Chander Pahar", based on Bibhutibhusan Bandopadhyay's 1909 novel of the same name.

The buzz around the film is mainly for two reasons: Its budget of Rs 17 crore makes it the most expensive Bangla film coming out of Tollywood and for its camerawork that captures the breathtaking landscape of South Africa, where the movie was extensively shot, in a manner never before seen in any Indian film.

One reviewer in "The Times of India" newspaper says, "The film scores big on its showcasing of Africa. The landscape is breathtaking... it's a trip down memory lane to the time when VHS cassettes introduced us to the continent through films like 'Savage Harvest', 'Hatarai' and 'Born Free'. Panoramic shots of the wilderness are like none seen in Tollywood before."

"Chander Pahar" chronicles the adventures of a young Bangali man Shankar Roy Chowdhury, in the jungles of Africa spanning 1909-1910.

Deb, the protagonist of "Chander Pahar", said he and other members of the film unit spent 45 days shooting scenes that included an encounter with a lion and climbing steep mountains with shots of horse-riding thrown in good measure.

"During my shoot with the lion, I went closer than what director Kamalashwar Mukhopadhyay had wanted. During one of the scenes, I had fallen from a horse and wounded myself," said Deb.

Kamalashwar Mukhopadhyay said Deb, an established star in Bangla films, was a natural choice, though he was typecast in the commercial genre.

The director took up "Chander Pahar" bringing with him the reputation of having done earlier "Meghey Dhaka Tara", a film said to be based on the life of Ritvik Ghatak (played by actor Sawasta Chatterjee) and earned critical acclaim but not commercial success.

"Chander Pahar" has already made a mark among followers of social networking sites like Facebook but it's translating into box office success as well. The film is set for release all across India this Friday and on January 10 next year in the US.

The writer is a film and music buff.