



Pramathesh Barua and Jamini Barua in “Devdas”.

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

It is a precious and rare gift from one neighbour to another, marking a “landmark” moment for India-Bangladesh cooperation in the area of cinema.

The first-ever talkie film version of Sarat Chandra Chattopadhyay’s novel “Devdas” made in Bangla in 1935 was gifted in DVD format by Bangladesh Film Archives (BFA) to National Film Archives of India (NFAI) this week, and in return BFA acquired a copy of the silent film “Raja Harishchandra” (1913), the first Indian feature film in silent era made by Dadasaheb Phalke.

Pramathesh Barua’s 1935 Bangla version of “Devdas” stars Barua in the title role, Jamuna Barua as Paro and Chandrabati Devi as Chandramukhi. This was Barua’s first of three language versions of the story, the second being in Hindi and the third in Assamese.

The gift from Bangladesh brought to an end the Indian National Film Archives’ frantic

efforts for over three decades to acquire a copy of the 1935 film.

The DVD copy of “Devdas” was handed over to NFAI by a visiting three-member delegation from Bangladesh led by Murtaza Ahmad, Secretary of Bangladesh’s Ministry of Information and Dr. Mohammad Jahangir Hossain, Director General of Bangladesh Film Archive in western Indian city of Pune where NFAI is located.

All the Indian prints of the 1935 Bengali version of “Devdas” were believed to have been destroyed decades ago. “No copy or print of the ‘Devdas’ made by Barua in 1935 was available in the country. Several attempts were made to find and locate it and finally it was discovered that the Bangladesh Film Archive has it,” Magdum said.

It was during a meeting of the International Federation of Film Archives (FIAP) in Canberra, Australia in April this year that Magdum had taken up the matter with his Bangladesh coun-

terpart. The film exchange was possible due to special efforts taken by the national archives of the two countries in recognition of the need to extend support towards promoting the film heritage of both.

NFAI is planning to request Bangladesh Film Archive to also provide a print version of the classic. “The DVD we have got today is of reasonable quality. They (Bangladesh Film Archive) have not restored the film but have only digitised it. We would request them to hand over a print of the film as well so that we may restore and preserve it,” Magdum said. The Bangladeshis on the other hand have shown interest in several films the NFAI has, which relate to the Bangladesh Liberation War -- and several other Bengali films.

NFAI is preparing its own list of films for possible exchange with Bangladesh.

The Bangladesh delegation visited NFAI to study the Indian film archive and its state-of-the-art film storage facilities in Pune.



## Aranyak to stage “Rarang” today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Theatre troupe Aranyak will stage their much-acclaimed production “Rarang” at the Experimental Theatre Hall of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy today at 7pm.

The play, written and directed by veteran thespian Mamunur Rashid, sheds lights on the rebellion of Santal community - an indigenous minority group living in the country’s northern region - against the oppression of the

British Regime. The play depicts the Santal Revolt that took place in 1855 against the British Raj and the feudalism prevalent in the 19th century.

“Rarang”, a Santal word that means “a call to rise”, narrates the life of great Santal leader Alfred Soren who died a valiant death fighting against oppression.

The play casts popular theatre actors including Tamalika Karmakar, Chanchal Chowdhury, Mamunur Rashid, AKM Hasan and others.



## “Otopor Bhalobashi” on SATV

A CORRESPONDENT

Tele-film “Otopor Bhalobashi”, starring Sajal, Moushumi Hamid, Hasan Imam and others, will air on SATV at 2:30pm today. Written by Lipi Monwar and directed by SA Haque Alik, it is the story of a working couple and the dynamics of

urban life. On a weekend when the couple plans to just relax, their household help seeks an urgent leave, and a relative of theirs calls to inform them he will be staying with them a few days. Things take a turn when the couple breaks into a scuffle over household works, and the wife leaves the house.

### Alia bags role opposite SRK

The Bhatt girl has finally made it. After acting with the Dhawans and the Malhotras, Alia Bhatt has finally graduated into the big Khan league of Bollywood. And all this courtesy her mentor, Karan Johar who has cast the young actress opposite none other than Shah Rukh Khan in his next production, to be helmed by Gauri Shinde.

Karan Johar confirmed the news with a tweet: “Red Chillies Entertainment...Dharma and Hope Productions are proud to present Gauri Shinde’s next starring... SHAH RUKH KHAN and ALIA BHATT.”

Alia Bhatt also shared her excitement of sharing screen space with Shah Rukh Khan on Twitter.

Gauri Shinde, who made his debut with “English Vinglish”, was previously rumoured to have been thinking of Katrina Kaif to star opposite SRK for his next project.

Source: Indian Express



TV WATCH

## Mosharraf and Jui Karim in KHUDHA

A CORRESPONDENT

Real-life couple Mosharraf and Jui Karim will star in tonight’s single-episode TV play “Khudha”, that airs tonight on Maasranga TV at 7:40pm. Written and

directed by Alamgir Ruman, the story encircles a youth who fails to find a job, after moving to the city in search of a better life. He eventually pretends to be mentally imbalanced, to try and make some money.

## Riaz and Moutushi pair up for “Life Support”



A CORRESPONDENT

Popular actors Riaz and Moutushi will be seen together in Eid special tele-film “Life Support”. Written and directed by Masud Sezan, the tele-film is currently being shot in the capital’s Uttara.

The plot encircles Shahriar and Sadia, a married couple. However, Sadia suspects her husband without any reason which eventually leads her husband to exile in a jungle.

About the tele-film, Riaz said, “During last Eid, I did a tele-film under Masud Sezan’s direction which became a hit. Likewise, this tele-film has a very interesting story. I hope the audience will like it.”

Moutushi said, “I have worked in many plays and drama serials with Masud Sezan. As an artiste I feel spontaneous while working with his unit. I hope the audience will also like this telefilm.”

“Life Support” will go on air on Banglavisnion during Eid.

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