

A new Feluda TV series is coming to Bangladesh

Parambrata to play the sleuth extraordinaire



OUR CORRESPONDENT, Kolkata

Feluda, one of Satyajit Ray's immortal creations, is coming to the Bangladeshi TV screens soon, but it's not an old series starring Soumitra Chatterjee, Shashi Kapoor, Sabyasachi Chakrabarty or even the latest Abir Chatterjee, but a brand new series with a brand new face. Kolkata's Parambrata Chatterjee, who has been finding more stronghold among the Bangladeshi audience with his film appearances like "Bhuban Majhi" and the upcoming "Bhoyongkor Sundor", will put on the hat of the masterful detective.

Satyajit's son Sandip Ray, who has the rights to the Feluda series, recently gave the TV rights to Bangladesh's Candy Productions, which Shahriar Shakil will bring to life. Zia Uddin Adil, Shahriar Shakil and Gousul Alam Shaon are producing it for Candy Productions, while the screenplay is being written by Kolkata-based Padmanav Dasgupta and Shaon. The casting for other characters, like Topshe and Jatayu, were not revealed immediately.

Filming for two stories, "Ghurghutia'r Ghotona" and "Sheyal Debota Rohoshyo" are set to begin soon. Sandip Ray informed the press in Kolkata that he

might visit Bangladesh during the production, but no dates were revealed. Parambrata shared his excitement on joining the cast. "Feluda is a dream character to play for any Bangalee. I'm very excited to be playing Feluda to the Bangladeshi audience," he said. Feluda, whose real name is Prodosh Chandra Mitra, is arguably one of the most iconic characters of Bangla literature and film. A brilliant detective with razor-sharp deduction and instincts, he often goes on adventures beyond the excellence of the mind and into situations of real danger. Satyajit created the character in 1965 on his magazine

"Sandesh" with "Feluda'r Goyendagiri", and went on to write 18 short stories and 17 novels. Satyajit also directed two Feluda films, "Sonar Kella" (1974) and "Joy Baba Felunath" (1979), starring Soumitra Chatterjee in the titular role. Over the course of the next decades, his son Sandip Ray has directed five Feluda films and 10 TV films. After Soumitra, Sbyasachi took on the role of Feluda in the Bangla films, while Shashi Kapoor played the sleuth in the Hindi adaptation of "Joto Kando Kathmandu te" (Hindi title "Kissa Kathmandu Ka") in 1985. The latest actor to have played Feluda was

Abir Chatterjee in the one-off reboot film "Badshahi Angti" (2014). Satyajit had also produced a radio adaptation of the series, beginning with "Baksho Rohoshyo". The radio series was later rebooted by BBC World Service, and by Sandip Ray. The last time Bangladeshi audience saw Feluda on the small screen was when Bangladesh Television aired nine of the Feluda TV movies between 1999 and 2001 (starring Sabyasachi in the lead), but with a fresh screenplay and direction, there is certainly a lot to look forward to for the numerous Feluda fans of the country.



Lahna Saha back on screen

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Lahna Saha is relatively well-known as a singer – although more as her former performer name Shithi Saha. However, she has dabbled in the small screen since 2008 on and off. Lahna made her debut in a TV play directed by the late Humayun Ahmed, titled "Tara Tinjon, Jhamelai Achi". After her first role, the singer went back to her musical roots, acting in television roles only occasionally. This Eid, she is making a comeback on the screen after one year in a play titled "Dondo-shomash", directed by Ashfaque Nipun. The play is part of the "Aynabaji Original TV Series", and Saha will appear as a character named Mala, starring opposite Rownak Hasan. Filming for the series took place in Munshiganj. "I play a young Hindu woman in the play," stated the artiste, "It feels good to be back on screen." Lahna had also previously worked in three plays helmed by Ashfaque Nipun. Off-screen, the singer is busy practicing music. She will appear in three musical programmes to be aired by ntv, Maasranga, and BTV, where she will perform for the magazine show "Anandamela". She has also recorded a song for the "Aynabaji" series play, directed by Gautam Koiri.



Apurbo and Sabila come together for "Pashapashi"

A CORRESPONDENT

Apurbo and Sabila Nur, two popular actors of their respective generations, are coming together for a special tele-film slated to air this Eid. Written and directed by Sagor Jahan, it also casts Jhuna Chowdhury, Masud Harun, Siddiq, Rimu and others. The story revolves around a young, successful man, Arnob, who is a managing director at his father's group of companies, and his personal secretary Lopa, a happy-

go-lucky middle class girl. Arnob develops a curiosity of life outside his bubble of wealth, and Lopa takes him on a ride of the average Dhaka resident – having biryani at Nilkhet, traveling in a crowded bus and walking in the rain. Arnob feels an attraction to this life, and an even stronger attraction towards Lopa. But when he gets ready to confess his feelings, what Lopa tells him turns his world upside down. The tele-film will air at 11am on the second day of Eid, on Ekushey Television.

SALMA on "Late Night Coffee"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Popular singer Salma will be the guest on tonight's show of "Late Night Coffee", Rtv's celebrity show. The programme deals with various topics of urban life, and is broadcast live, so there is scope for interaction with the TV audience through phone calls and emails. Produced by Sohel Rana Bidyut, "Late Night Coffee" will air at one minute past midnight tonight.



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Tanvir Mokammel revisiting the Liberation War

New film "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey" in the offing

PALLAB BHATTACHARYA, New Delhi

After a mega documentary on the Partition of Indian subcontinent, national award-winning director Tanvir Mokammel returns to his familiar terrain -- Bangladesh's Liberation War - for his next feature film "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey" which recently won a National Film Grant for 2017. Mokammel insists the film will look at the seminal event of 1971 from a left-wing perspective. In an interview with The Daily Star, he spoke about the film, and more. Excerpts: **What is the story outline of "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey"? Is this story based on a real incident?** Tanvir Mokammel: The story is about the life and struggles of a left-wing leader killed by the razakars during the 1971 Liberation War of Bangladesh. **When do you plan to start shooting the film, and where? When do you hope to release the film?** Tanvir Mokammel: We will shoot the film in winter this year. Most of the shootings will take place in the rural areas of Khulna region. The target is to release the film in the summer of next year. **Who are in the cast?** Tanvir Mokammel: We have not yet finalised the cast. I and my film unit are now busy in the post-production works of the 1947 Partition documentary "Seemantarekhka", as the film is sched-



uled to be released in August, the month of the Partition. We will then concentrate fully on the cast and the locations. **Who wrote "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey"?** Tanvir Mokammel: Yes. I always write the scripts of my own films. In fact, as an auteur film-maker, it is very important for me to visualise the scenes. So I myself always write my scripts. **Have you finalized the technical spearheads for your project?** Tanvir Mokammel: Syed Shabab Ali

Arzoo will compose the music of the film and Uttam Guha will be the art director. Shabab has done the musical scores of all my films since "Nodir Nam Modhumati". **After the documentary "Seemantorekha", you are returning to another feature film in the back-drop of the Bangladesh Liberation War. How different will it be from your previous films on the subject?** Tanvir Mokammel: "Seemantorekha"

is a documentary film and "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey" will be a fiction. So there is a big difference in the approach and also in the cinematic crafts between the two films. But if you want to compare with my previous Liberation War films, I guess "Rupsha Nodir BaNkey" will be a film more on the build-up of the war than the war itself. In this film, the Bangladesh Liberation War will be seen from a left-wing perspective. **You said "Seemantorekha" will hit the screens in August. Will it be screened in India also at that time?** Tanvir Mokammel: Yes, that is the plan. **Seventy years down the line, how relevant is the subject of the vivisection of the Indian sub-continent?** Tanvir Mokammel: Though 70 years have passed, a lot of the issues from 1947 are still alive in the polity of today's subcontinent -- like the issue of secularism and Hindu-Muslim relationship. These issues need to be addressed if we want our states and the societies to move forward. So a journey down memory lane will not harm, rather may do immense good to understand some of the present dilemmas which our sub-continent is facing now. That is the reason why I wanted to make the film "Seemantorekha" after 70 years of the Partition of the Indian subcontinent.