

ZAHIR RAIHAN

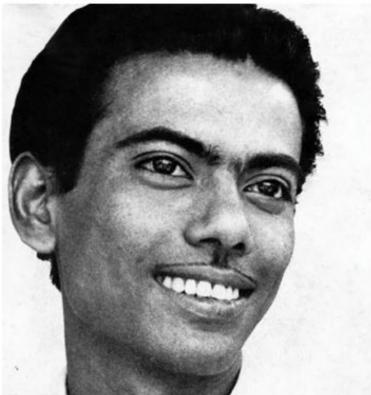
Film Fest opens today

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Bangladesh Udichi Shilpi Goshthi is organising a two-day film festival beginning tomorrow to mark the 82nd birth anniversary of avant-garde Bangladeshi filmmaker and a torchbearer of progressive cultural movement in pre-Liberation Bangladesh, Zahir Raihan.

The festival, with the theme "Protirodhe Prostut Camera", will be inaugurated at the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy's Music and Dance Centre Auditorium by cultural personality Syed Hasan Imam. Raihan's song, Anol Raihan will be present at the event, along with Udichi's central committee chairman Dr. Shafiuddin Ahmed and Federation of Film Societies Bangladesh general secretary Belayet Hossain Mamun.

The first day's programme will continue from 10am-8:30pm on the opening day, and the second day's proceedings will continue from 10am-2:30pm. Invited guests will discuss various stages of Bangladesh's cinema history and future, and about the life, work and principles of Raihan. The festival will also screen a number of documentary and feature films: Zahir Raihan's "A State is Born", Tauquir Ahmed's "Oggatonama", Kamar Ahmed Simon's "Ekta Suta'r Jobanbondi" ("Testimony of a Thread") and Tanvir Mokammel's "Jibondhuli" on the first day and Projonmo Talkies' short films "Punorabritti" and Uposonghar", and



Zahidur Rahim Anjan's national award-winning "Meghmallar". All the screenings are open to all.

Mohammad Zahirullah (better known as Zahir Raihan) -- born on August 19, 1935 in a village in Feni -- lived only to be 37, but left his mark in the heart of every patri-

otic Bangladeshi with his works. After moving back from Kolkata following the partition of 1947, Zahir Raihan obtained a post-graduate in Bengali Literature and began working as a journalist. After initially writing short stories (inspired by his brother, prominent litterateur Shahidullah Kaiser), Raihan ventured into films as an assistant with "Jago Hua Savera" (1959). He made his directorial debut with "Kokhono Asheni" in 1960. In 1964, he made Pakistan's first colour movie, "Sangam", and completed his first cinemascope movie, "Bahana", the following year. In the 1960s, he directed "Sonar Kajol" (jointly with Kalim Sharafi), "Kancher Deyal", "Behula", "Anowara", "Dui Bhai" and "Jibon Theke Neyra" in 1969. Raihan was also an accomplished writer. His publications include "Surjya Graham", "Shesh Bikeler Meye", the epic "Hajar Bochhor Dhore", "Arek Falgun", "Borof Gola Nodi", "Aar Koto Din", "Koyekti Mrittu" and "Trishna".

It was the subject matter of his work, however, that separates him from his contemporaries; Raihan had strong nationalist

beliefs, and it reflected sharply in his work. Some of his works are iconic of the movement of the then East Pakistan that eventually culminated into the struggle for Independence. His film "Jibon Theke Neyra" is a satirical depiction of the then-ongoing national movement, portraying an entire country through the story of a family.

The Liberation War began when Raihan was the general secretary of Bangladesh Liberation Council of Intelligentsia, and was making his first English film, "Let There Be Light". He abandoned the project and made his most notable work, the documentary "Stop Genocide", depicting the horrendous atrocities of the Pakistani forces. Zahir Raihan left his house on January 30, 1972 in search of his brother Shahidullah Kaiser, who was abducted by Pakistani forces just before Bangladesh's emergence on the world map, and never returned. It is believed that he was killed in Mirpur by Pakistani soldiers in hiding and their Bihari collaborators, while looking for the body of his brother at the Mirpur mass grave, where many intellectuals were killed and buried.

WHAT'S ON

Photography Exhibition
 Concealed
 Artist: Habiba Nowrose
 Venue: Kala Kendra
 Date: August 10-31
 Time: 5pm-8pm

Art for the Soul
 Organiser: Moar
 Venue: Ventura Iconia, Banani 11
 Date: August 22
 Time: 12pm-9pm

Solo Sculpture & Art Exhibition
 Title: "Rhythm of Clouds" by Ferdous Priyabhashini
 Venue: Gallery Shilpangan, H-7, Rd-13 (New) Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 4-18; Time: 3-8pm

Charity Theatre Staging
 Play: Crutch'er Colonel
 Troupe: BotTala
 Venue: Mahila Samity
 Date: August 18
 Time: 7pm

Group Art Exhibition
 Title: A Thousand Tales
 Venue: Gallery Chittrak, H-4, Rd-6, Dhanmondi
 Date: August 18-21
 Time: 10am-8pm

Solo Art Exhibition
 Artist: Syed Nazmus Sakib
 Venue: EMK Center, H-5, Rd-16 (New), Dhanmondi
 Date: Aug 5-24
 Time: 5pm-8pm

NEWS bytes



Bieber teases first solo song in years

Even though it's been almost two years since Justin Bieber's last official album, the radio waves have not lacked for new Bieber music. He's on two 'song of the summer' contenders this year alone. But it's been a while since Bieber released a song where he's the lead artist.

That's about to change this week though, as the megastar tweeted out what appears to be the cover art for a new track he plans to drop. The song is titled "Friends", and along with Justin, the artwork lists Bloodpop, which serves as a major indicator to how this new track might sound. Blood appears several times on the liner notes for Bieber's last album "Purpose", with production credits on "Mark My Words", "I'll Show You", and most importantly, "Sorry".

The move comes just weeks after Bieber made news by abruptly canceling his tour. For Bloodpop's part, since working with Bieber he's logged significant placements on Lady Gaga's most recent album, as well as Haim's latest single "Want You Back".

Source: **Complex**



PHOTO: SHEIKH MEHEDI MORSHED

Reunited after 13 years

Riaz and Tanzika shoot for "Onno Abhaye"

STAFF CORRESPONDENT

Film star Riaz and former Lux contestant-turned actor Tanzika first shared the screen space on the sets of "Bokul Phuler Mala" thirteen years ago. After over a decade, the duo is reuniting on the silver screen, in a play titled "Onno Abhaye".

Directed by Shokal Ahmed and scripted by Yusuf Ali Khokon, the play is scheduled to release during Eid ul Azha. Shooting has been completed at Uttara. The pair is

set to fill in the roles of a happily married couple, who are confronted with changes when a mysterious incident causes Riaz's character to behave strangely. The director added, "Not only is the play a great source of entertainment, but it carries an important message for viewers."

"Honestly, even though we are working together after so long, it doesn't feel that way," said Riaz.

"I stepped into my career by Riaz's side in my debut film. This new venture definitely holds a special place in my heart," added Tanzika.



Plank-punching PRACHI DESAI says pain is "worth it"

Actress Prachi Desai hurt herself while shooting for a scene in her upcoming film "Kosha". She said after wrapping up she felt her bruises were "completely worth it".

A scene required Prachi to show anger and punch a wooden plank.

"Initially, the actress used boxing hand wraps, but was not satisfied with it. She decided to go without the hand wraps, and after a two-minute long sequence, and when the director said 'cut' everyone realised that Prachi has bruised herself and was bleeding," said a source from the set.

Talking about the incident that happened last week, Prachi said in a statement: "At times, one gets completely involved in the character and though it was painful, it was completely worth it."

Director Amman Advaita said: "We would retain the actual scene with her bleeding as she has rigorously kicked and punched for this sequence."

"Kosha" is being described as a 'dark urban fairy tale', with the story revolving around a girl who is a band member and struggles with substance abuse.

Source: **TOI**

Muhin gets into the groove

A CORRESPONDENT

Runner up of 2006 Closeup 1 Muhin has stolen hearts with his performances, and the singer has gone on to launch a successful music career. Recently, Muhin has also turned his hand to songwriting and composing, the fruits of which were demonstrated in his fourth album "Kolijaye Lage Re."



PHOTO: STAR

Currently, the singer is teaming up with a few artistes on a mixed album venture, slated to be released during Eid ul Azha. The yet-to-be titled album is to feature Muhin's "Kolijaye Lage Re", among a few others. "I have worked with various artistes for the album, such as Amit Kaur, Sumon Kalyan Das, Kishore, Sohel. With Shaan I have worked on the song 'Priotoma'. My audio production company, Golpo Entertainment, will be one of the distributors for the new album," elaborated Muhin.

Talking about his lyrical and composition ventures, the singer said, "I decided to take this daunting undertaking for three songs in my fourth album. They have gained much popularity, and 'Dhoom Dharaka' and 'Kolijaye Lage Re' are often requested by fans when I'm on stage."

The artiste is also set to work with Liza on her new album, where the song "Rongela" is written and composed by Muhin. "I have also done a song for Nishita and Salma, which will be featured in their upcoming albums. Songwriting and composing was a challenge I decided to try for myself, as I wanted to explore newer avenues as an artiste, and find different windows of inspiration. The positive feedback I have received motivates me to do more."