

2006: A recap

This year the cultural arena was quite active. Cultural festivals held this year attracted a sizeable audience, talent hunts found new faces and voices that received a warm welcome from the nation and some of our artistes were lauded overseas for their work.

A round up of this year's buzz-worthy events:

Bangladeshi photographers awarded in Japan: Two Bangladeshi photojournalists Shahadat Parvez and Monirul Alam of Prothom Alo were awarded in the 66th International Photographic Salon of Japan...

Prizes. Mrinal Haque and Tejsh Haldar of Bangladesh received Honourable Mention Awards.

Folk Music Festival: A five-day Music Soiree on folk genre organised by the Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy (BSA) at its premises, offered a veritable bonanza for folk music lovers.

BBC audience selects 20 greatest Bangla songs of all times: BBC conducted an opinion

Farida Parveen makes waves in Paris: Noted Laloni artiste Farida Parveen performed at the esteemed Théâtre de la Ville, Paris on January 14.

Fifteenth anniversary of The Daily Star: The Daily Star celebrated its 15th anniversary with a glitzy evening that included who's who in the country as well as foreign emissaries...

ITI Theatre Festival: The International Theatre Institute Bangladesh Centre (ITIBC) organised its eighth biennial theatre festival from February 21.

3rd International Film Festival Bangladesh: Amidst much anticipation, 3rd International Film Festival Bangladesh began on March 1.

12th Asian Art Biennale: Inaugurated on March 5, the 12th Asian Art Biennale, one of the most popular biennales in Asia, ended successfully on March 31.



award for her notable accomplishments and contribution to our theatre and TV. Besides the award-giving ceremony, a glitzy musical programme, a fashion parade and skits based on current social issues entertained the audience.

Lux Channel i Super Star '06: The grand title went to Zakia Bari Momo, who was crowned by the former Lux Channel i Superstar, Shamu.

Ibsen Commemoration

The talent hunt ATN Taroka Tarokader Taroka picked Mohammad Rezwanaul Huque (music) from Rangpur and Queen Rahman (acting) from Bogra district as winners.

Shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan passes away: Subcontinental music suffered an irreparable loss with the passing away of shehnai maestro Ustad Bismillah Khan in the early hours of August 21.

Chobi Mela IV: Chobi Mela, the largest photography exhibition in Asia, was held in Dhaka from November 9 to November 30.

Lux-Channel i Performance Award '05: Lux Channel i Performance Award 2005 was held at the Sharjah Cricket Association Stadium on November 17.

Abu Sayeed and 'Nirontor' receive international acclaim: Filmmaker Abu Sayeed and his movie Nirontor, brought international glory for Bangladeshi cinema.

Hrishikesh Mukherjee passes away: Filmmaker Hrishikesh Mukherjee, who made a number of films that attained mass popularity like Anand, Guddi and Abhimaan, passed away after a stroke on August 27.

Citycell-Channel i Music Award '05: Citycell-Channel i Music Award 2005, a much-needed boost to our music industry, was held on August 31.

Ferdous Ara (Nazrul songs), Momotaj (best artiste in folk songs) and Kiron Chandra Roy (best music) in mystic songs, Cryptic Fate (best underground band), Raya (best upcoming artiste) and late Imran Ahmed Chowdhury Momen (best sound engineer).

Bengal Bikash: Bengal Bikash stood out in the current fad of talent hunts for its commendable efforts to discover artistes who have taken the less lucrative path of traditional Bangla songs.

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CULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

In remembrance...

The cultural arena of Bangladesh lost some of its brightest and most talented stars in the year 2006. This is a tribute to the personalities whose demise have left an irreparable void in their respective fields:

Anwar Parvez (1941-2006): Composer of invaluable patriotic songs, Anwar Parvez, who was suffering from cancer, died on June 17.



Parvez had contributed timeless songs, such as Ekbar jetej de na amar chhotto shonar gaye, Amaye jodi proshno koro, Ektara tui desher kotha bol rey, She jey keno eol na, Aul Baul Laloner deshey and many more.

song kept the spirits high at the camps. At the age of 27, Parvez had composed the song for the film Jai Bangla. The song reverberated with the emotional storm that was cloaking the country at that time.

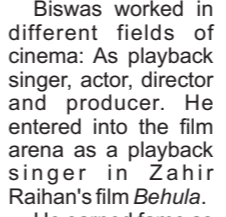
"It was not that the song was composed for any particular party. It was rather composed at a time when people were united under a single banner for a common cause -- independence," said Parvez, in an exclusive interview to The Daily Star, prior to his demise.

"When a composer works with a song, he has to depend on his basic instincts and his 'third eye'. His vision must not only focus on the context of the song, but also on the impact the song would have on the audience. So, when I was asked to compose a tune for the particular film, the first thing I visualised was the half-fed and half-clad people in distress, having lost all hope of livelihood, but still holding dear the hope of independence. And I wanted to create a tune that would re-ignite that hope into an engulfing flame."

Parvez was also one of the leading names in film music. He had composed songs for several Bangla films such as Abhijan, Madhu Maloti, Shonar Harin, Shokal Shandhya and many more.

After his illness was diagnosed, renowned artistes and musicians of the country took initiative to raise funds for his medical treatment.

Dilip Biswas (1946-2006): Award winning film director and producer Dilip Biswas passed away on July 12. He was suffering from cancer.



Biswas worked in different fields of cinema: As playback singer, actor, director and producer. He entered into the film arena as a playback singer in Zahir Raihan's film Behula.

He earned fame as a singer in Anowara, Momer Alo, Dui Bhai, Alomati, Sontan, Chena Achena and more. He emerged as actor in Habur Biye. Later, he stepped into direction as an assistant director through Agun Niye Khela.

Biswas bagged National Awards thrice as best director. He also produced popular films such as Akritagga, Shasurbari Zindabad and others.

Shamsur Rahman (1929-2006): Eminent poet Shamsur Rahman breathed his last in Dhaka on August 17.

Shamsur Rahman started composing poetry at a time when most people, particularly the Bengali Muslims, were not aware of the development of modern poetry. He started on the ground prepared by the poets of the 1930s and developed and added new features to Bangla poetry.

their emotion about the country, its people and their language.

As a poet and a citizen of Dhaka he could not refrain himself from the political development of the then East Pakistan leading ultimately to the emergence of Bangladesh. Although he was never active in politics, he composed a number of political poems, which were particularly devoted to the country's struggle for freedom and independence.

One of his most popular poems in this group is Asader Shirt (Asad's shirt) where the poet gives an emotional description of the death of a young demonstrator, who was brutally killed in police firing at a protest rally against the despotic army rule.

After the independence of Bangladesh, Rahman emerged as the most powerful poet of the country, reflecting the true spirit of independence and the Liberation War. He successfully used the terms and words related to independence.

Swadhinata Tumi (To Independence) is one of his most popular poems, in which the poet tries to reflect the heartfelt urge and describes the true meaning of independence and freedom.

A prolific writer, Rahman authored nearly 100 books, of which more than sixty are collections of poems. He received numerous awards including the Bangla Academy Award in 1969, Ekushey Padak in 1977 and the Swadhinata Award in 1991.

Niton Kundu (1935-2006): Nitun Kundu, a freedom fighter and the famed sculptor of Shabash Bangladesh on the Rajshahi University campus -- a tribute to the martyrs of the country's Liberation War, passed away in Dhaka on September 15.

A celebrated painter and founder of international standard furniture maker Otobi Limited, Nitun Kundu (original name Nitya Gopal Kundu) will remain alive in the mind of countrymen for his artistic works.

Niton Kundu worked with artist Qamrul Hasan at the public relations department of the exiled Bangladesh government during the Liberation War in 1971. He designed a good number of posters published by the Information and Publicity Department of the government in exile.

Apartment works include the Saarc Fountain at Karwan Bazar, the fountain in front of the High Court, and the Sampan at Chittagong Airport.

A pioneer in using metal with wood in making furniture, Kundu served the USIS in the pre-Liberation period. His multidimensional artistic sense and work skill has made the Otobi an ever-growing organisation.

Awarded both as an artist and an entrepreneur, Nitun Kundu earned the Ekushey Padak and The Daily Star-DHL best entrepreneur award.

Niton Kundu also crafted several national trophies, including those of the national film award, President Gold Cup, Notun Kuri Award of Bangladesh Television, Asia Cricket Cup, and the Ekushey Padak.



Clockwise (from top-left): Dancers at The Daily Star's 15th anniversary celebration, a photograph by Shahidul Alam at Chobi Mela IV, Shabnoor in Abu Sayeed's film Nirontor, Lux Channel i Superstar '06 Momo (L) embraced by last year's winner Shamu and veteran baul artiste Shah Abdul Karim (C) honoured at the Citycell-Channel i Music Award '05



pool on the "greatest Bangla songs of all times". According to the survey Manush manusher jonyo and Amar bhai-er rokter rangano ekushey February came second and third respectively. National anthem Amar shonar Bangla was selected as the greatest Bangla song.

Meril-Prothom Alo Award '05: Meril-Prothom Alo Award 2005 was held on May 12 to honour and inspire talents in the arenas of music, television, filmmaking and modelling. Ferdousi Majumder received the lifetime achievement

Theatre Festival: The 10-day theatre festival, beginning on May 11, was arranged to mark the centenary death anniversary of the great Norwegian playwright Henrik Johan Ibsen. The festival continued simultaneously at two theatre halls of Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy-- National Theatre Stage and Experimental Theatre Stage-- in two sections. In the international theatre festival titled "Staging Ibsen in Asia", theatre troupes from Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Nepal, Taiwan and Japan participated.

ATN Taroka Tarokader Taroka:

TV GUIDE

PICK OF THE DAY



Bhober Haat On Channel-i at 7:00pm Mega Serial Cast: ATM Shamsuzzaman, Salauddin Lavlu



The New Shabuj Opera On ATN Bangla at 8:40pm Drama Serial Cast: Zahid Hassan, Tomalika

Table with program listings for BTV, News Bulletin, ATN BANGLA, CHANNEL-1, BANGLAVISION, CHANNEL-i, and RTV.

Table with program listings for Kothon, Ebong Cinemar, Shanbad Potrey, Public Reaction, Shath Rong, Dhaka Guide, Educational Programme, Sholyer Shondhoney, Dumtir Birudhey, Nirbachon'07, Drama Serial: Shath Goenda, Drama Serial: Bhober Haat, Hridoye Mati O Manush, Grameenphone Aiker Shanbadpotro, ntvtv, Aiker Shokal, Right Click, Shangkriti Ei Shoptaho, Akter Hip Hip Hurray, Apnar Jigyasha, Closeup 1 Tomakei, Khujichhey, Megh Bolechhey, Jabo Jabo, Dance Programme, Din Dorpon/ Iltihasher Ei Diney, Alokpat, Shubhoshondha, Drama Serial: Ramizer Aaina, Bhalo Besho Mor.

Table with program listings for Rtv, CHANNEL 1, BANGLAVISION, HBO, and Discovery Channel.

Table with program listings for Shunney Boshobash, Din Er Sheshey, BANGLAVISION, HBO, and Discovery Channel.

Table with program listings for STAR MOVIES, STAR WORLD, STAR PLUS, and Discovery Channel.

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