# Bangladeshi film wins top award in Kathmandu

Directed by Yasmin Kabir the award-winning film 'My Migrant Soul' narrates the painful tale of a migrant worker

FAYZA HAQ

HE top award at Film South Asia 2001 (FSA '01) Ram Bahadur trophy went to a Bangladeshi film 'My Migrant Soul', directed by Yasmin Kabir, FSA'01 is the third festival in a series of South Asian documentaries held at Kathmandu from 4<sup>th</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> October,

The film festival was inaugurated by the famous director Shyam Benegal and began with the screening of Dhruba Basnet's "The Killing Terraces " based on the Maoist insurgency in Nepal

HE Nihal Roderigo, Secretary General of SAARC, as part of the opening function, launched the clearinghouse of South Asian Documentaries, which hopes to promote and popularize South Asian documentaries by lending information and marketing support.

Altogether, 45 documentaries on South Asian topics were screened in the competition, held over three and a half days of the Film such Asia festival. Six of these films are from Nepal including "The Hills Are Red" (on the Maoist revolution), shot in Rukum, Ropla and Jajarkot, hilly parts of Nepal. The films came from Bangladesh, India, Nepal and Pakistan, with subjects varying from Indian man's sexual fantasies to the Pakistani women's thoughts on men, from the panic caused by the Kosi embankments in Bihar to literary introspection in Assam, from alternative schooling in Kerala to the Kashmiri theatre. A non-competitive section at the festival showcased production in various categories, including archival films.

Thirty filmmakers from all over the Subcontinent arrived in Kathmandu for the occasion and they presented their films and later lead discussions. The three films adjudged the best were awarded cash prizes of USD 2000, 1000 and 500 respectively

The films were judged by a three-member jury headed by internationally-renowned director Shyam Benegal. Other members of the jury include the Nepali film and television personality, Neer Shah of Kathmandu and Firdous Azim, social critic and professor of English at the University of Dhaka.

Within Film South Asia 2001, a selection of 20 short and silent films



The participants and organizers of the Film South Asia 2001 gather for a group photograph after the award ceremony. Bangladeshi film "My Migrant Soul"by Yasmine Kabir won the top prize at the festival

made by independent filmmakers from all over the subcontinent were also screened as part of 'Kathmandu's Silent Night" on 5th October. This special "festivalwithin-a-festival" showcased "silent shorts or "goongi films", made by enthusiasts from all over South Asia. On this occasion, people had begun pouring in well before the screening time and they included thirty students from the association for the Hearing Impaired which was the ultimate test for the "silent

A symposium on public television in South Asia was organised on 6th

The Ram Bahadur trophy award went to the Bangladeshi film "My Migrant Soul", directed by Yasmine The film had the deeply moving account of a young man's shattered dreams as he travels as a migrant worker to Malaysia from Bangladesh. The film also portrays his sister and mother, who are remarkable women, who try to get news of him as he is reduced to a prisoner and virtually a slave. This human tragedy represents broader problems in this time of

"A Rough Cut on the Life and Times of Lachuman Magar",



Nihal Roderigo, Secretary General of SAARC and Kanak Dixit of FSA at the inauguration.

October as part of the festival, with a presentation by Beena Sarwar from Lahore. On 7<sup>th</sup> October there was a meeting organised by Nepali feature filmmakers and Shyam Benegal to discuss the present state of the Nepali feature film industry and its future directions.

directed by Dinesh Deokata won the second prize. This is a tale of adventure of an average man who is made extraordinary by his appetite for life and love. This is a good example of

The third prize went to the Indian film "Jari Mair: Of Cloth and Other

Stories" directed by Surabi Sharma. This is a social documentary presenting everyday conflicts of people in a Mumbai slum. It is admirable for the felicity with which it handles complexities of the urban economy issues such as casual labour, formal vs informal modes of employment, and fragmentation of the labour

"King of Dreams", another Indian film, directed by Amar Kanwar, got the Jury's Award . This is a deeply personal film comprising of dreams, desires and constant yearnings. The use of cinematic images shows a masterly control over the material, without the degenerating into selfindulgence.

Afsan Chowdhury, a filmmaker and well-known journalist of Bangladesh who is also a member of the Editorial Board of the Himal South Asian magazine, one of the festival sponsors, says about Film South Asia. "The South Asian documentary film festival takes place every two years. Since it began in 1997 it has become the leading documentary film festival in South Asia. In the last six years it has been drawing high quality films and has become a point where people like to show their fare at the FSA and people from different parts of South Asia come to see the films. There is also a travelling film festival attached to it. Fifteen of the best films, chosen by the jury, travel to different parts. Thus this has become a huge opportunity for filmmakers to show their efforts to a wide audience in many parts of the world. It's now described it as one the most successful alternate film organisation. It may not be well funded but is carried forward by the momentum, enthusiasm and energy of the people who produce documentaries and participate in the FSA. This is a huge opportunity for producers who are not catering for the general market. "This year one of the significant

factors was the presence of Shyam Benegal as a member of the jury The fact that a person of such eminence had agreed to come for the occasion itself shows that the South Asian film festival has become mainstreamed. He was really enthusiastic about it. It has been pushed forward by the energy of the organizers. They have pitched in their own funds to con-



Kanak Dixit, Editor of the Himal South Asian magazine and principal organizer of the FSA 01 presiding over the inauguration ceremony

tinue this FSA. In many ways this is a great effort that they are pushing through but these films do face a crisis although this crisis is being overcome by the sheer goodwill of those involved in this festival. The films this year have been noted for their high quality and excellence.

"The film that has been particularly noted is 'My Migrant Soul' from Bangladesh, which won the first prize, the Ram Bahadur Trophy. This is the first time that a Bangladeshi has won a first prize and this is significant in my opinion. It won because it touched contributing everyone's soul. The decision for its winning was a unanimous and Bangladesh, made by an expatriate has been accepted for the travelling film festival. "The interesting part of this

festival was the 'festival within a

festival' billed as 'The Silent Night' which included about 22 films including two from Bangladesh. These were hugely successful and one of them was mine. It included the works of young film makers and people responded to the film submission call with great enthusiasm. We hope to continue this silent film festival . Farjad Nabi, a journalist and one of the leading documentary film makers of South Asia, who made the film 'When did Fateh Ali



Viewers, film makers and guests at the venue of the third Film South Asia 01 held in Kathmandu. Over 45 films from different parts of South Asia were hosted at the festival which ran from 4 to 7 October

as one of the Editors of the Himal South Asian magazine I will confide the fact that it was thought of very highly by everyone including Shyam Benegal. There were other Bangladeshi entries besides this and one film on Clinton's visit to

Khan leave his house' and the 'Professor' also showed his works. He and Mazhar Zaidi run a website on folk art, cinema and other visual forms, called 'Mattela' which was instrumental in arranging the 'aoonai' (Dumb) films

present in the background of the past . My films look at how history affects people. This deals with people who have experienced both negative and positive history. The subject the interests me most are the events of 1971 in Bangladesh on which I have made a film called 'Their War'. It is on how women faced 1971 and what is their position now. It is a 50 minutes film and has been shown in India and Nepal where I have had very positive reactions. I found that people who have experienced conflicting situations those from Sri Lanka, Kashmir and Afghanistan relate to it much more intensely than even some Bangladeshi for whom our history is somewhat moribund. I do not make films which will draw applause, they tend to be reflective. Some people have said that my films are not documentary in the strict sense and I have no fight with that. I make films which are about recording, documenting. My films are not great personal statements but collection of many statements. This film cost about Tk four lakhs and I was being supported by the Grameen Trust. I worked with a young group of people who travelled through memory and came back with what memories meant then and what they mean now. It becomes a statement against official history. This was screened in the non competitive category at the festival. "My other film in the festival was

"I make films in cooperation with

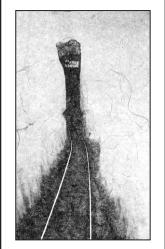
other film makers. I document the

a three minute film without dialogue which we produced for the festival. 'Looking for a face gently' ... dealt with a camera searching for a face without being too intrusive. Farjad Nabi described this as a 'quirky film' made by someone with a 'devious mind'. He is right. The camera tries to see the face of a woman and ultimately she turns her face and you get to see her, makes her face the camera gently. It cost only about Tk 4000. The camera was free, the place where it was shot free. It was a single shot film and needed no editing. Even the sound mixing was done free. Just expresses for tea and sending it to Kathmandu.'



#### The Mummy Returns

This Hollywood blockbuster now runs at the country's premier cinema hall Modhumita. The Mummy Returns is the sequel of The Mummy and have all the ingredients of its earlier one. With its spine-tingling adventures against breath-taking landscapes, The Mummy Returns is sure to thrill cine buffs. Hordes of canine bodied Anubis warriors-literally hounds from hell-bound across the Sahara in attack formation while carnivorus pygmy mummies ambush their pray in the jungles of the Nile.



#### **Graphic prints** show

Noted French artist Jean-Michel Alberola's solo exhibition of graphic prints runs till October 26 at the French cultural centre, Alliance Francaise, at Dhanmandi.

#### Six Seasons Shilparag Gallery at Dhanmandi

(House#15, Road# 27 old) presents an exhibition on the theme six seasons. Leading artists of the country have captured in their canvas the rich variety of our seasons and their ambience. The month-long show has been extended till October 31 everyday from 11 am to 8pm.

## Tv guidE

#### BTV Open University

Shasthatathya Khabar Cartoon: Samurai X

Pushthitatya

6:00 Khabar Batikrom Programme from Cgittagong 6:35

7:00 News Headlines Shondhamaloti

News in Bengali 8:30 Drama Serial: Shubho Buddhi (Episode 3) 9:00 9:05 Dekha Odekha

Drama Serial: Onnorokom 10:00 News in English 10:30 Taroka Jagath

10:50 Shomahar 11:30 Khabar / The News **EKUSHEY TV** 

Drishti

12:00 Ekushev Midday 12:30 Charidike Expedition to the Animal

1:30 Circus Circus Classic Cartoons Surer Prodeep

2:30 3:00 Ekushev Headlines Drama Serial: Na 4:00 Surer Prodeep

4:30 Expedition to the Animal Kingdom 5:30 5:50 Aiker Potrikav

Ekushey Headlines BBC News 6:30 6:55 Deshjure Ekushey Headlines 9:00 BBC News **Ekushey News** 

7:30 7:58 Ek Minute Drama: Shesh Obhinoy **10:00** BBC News 10:00 News: Simulcast from BTV 10:30 Top Gear 11:00 Ekushev Nightly News 11:00 BBC News E Shoptaher Bishsho 11:30 Reporters 12:00 BBC News

12:00 Ekush`ey News Headlines ATN 9:35 Magazine Prog: Agami Din10:10 Drama Serial: Brettyer 1:30 2:00

10:50 Drama Serial "Bondon' 11:20 Bengali Film : Nagin 6:32 Islamic Prog. : Sundor Jeebaner Jannee Cook Prog: Ranna Banna

Healdines Song Prog: Gun Sudu Gun Musical prog: Katha Thake, Thake Gun

Drama Serical: Baker Nibas Reporting prog : Prekkha 10:00 ATN Bangla News 10:35 Musical prog: SInger Kanij

11:05 Bengali FilmKhuni 11:30 ATN Bangla News

#### CHANNEL-I

Drama: Joar Vata Lalon Shah Sarone Talk Show: 8:00 Din Protidin

10:10 Addar Table 10:40 | Music 11:15 Drama: Joar Vata 12:00 Lalon Shah Sarone

Sastain Music Time

**12:15** Talk Show 1:15 Sastain Music Time Kacher Vitore Achine

3:00 Bengla Cinema: Sele Kher (Almgir/Razina) Reciting From Holy

6:10 Addar Table I Music Chanel I Sangbad Chiro Saronjoy Sm

Solaiman Chirodiner Gane Mama Bheghner Kando

Channel I Sangbad 9:00 9:15 House Full 10:00 Quize: 60 Sec. 10:01 Drama: Agunthoke 10:30 Channel I Sangbad

#### 11:00 Tele Film: Ek Jaloke **BBC WORLD**

**BBC News** World Business Report BBC News Asia Today/Asia **Business Report** 

Asia Today/World **Business Report** 9:30 Asia Today/Asia **Business Report** 

12:30 Hardtalk BBC News Talking Movies **BBC News** 

3:00 **BBC News** Hardtalk 4:00 **BBC News** 4:30

**BBC News** Simpson 6:00 **BBC News** Face to Face

**BBC News** 7:00 7:15 World Business Report 7:30 Top Gear 8:00 **BBC News** 8:30

9:00 **BBC News** 2:30 9:30 Asia Today 10:00 BBC News

10:15 World Business Report 10:30 IT India Tomorrow

11:00 BBC News 11:45 World Business Report/World Sport **12:00** BBC News 12:30 Hardtalk 1:00 BBC News

1:30 Click Online 2:00 BBC News 2:30 World Business Report 3:00 BBC News

3:30 Life 4:00 BBC News 4:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today 5:00 BBC News

5:30 Asia Business Report/Asia Today **HBO** 

6:30 Bloodhounds II Child's Play 2 10:00 Out of Africa As Good As It Gets 4:00 New Al Catraz The Stepdaughter 6:00 8:00 Drop Zone

10:00 Nicholas and Alexandra

Turbulence 2: Fear of

4:45 As Good As It Gets STAR GOLD

1:45

10:30 Amul Bollywood News 11:00 Geet Bahar Raahee (Shatrughan Sinha, Smita Pati)

Amul Bollywood News Palk (Rajendra Kumar, Waheeda Rehman) Geet Bahar Lamhe Pyaar Ke Paigham (Dilip Kumar,

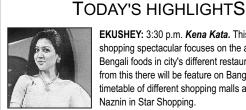
Vyajyantimala) 11:00 Amul Bollywood News Balika Badhu (Sachin) 12:30 Balika Badhu (contd..) 3:00 Geet Bahar Palk (Rajendra Kumar, Waheeda Rehman) Paigham (Dilip Kumar,

Vyajyantimala) STAR WORLD Happy Days

3rd Rock From The 7:00 The Oprah Winfrey 8:00 Water Rats

The Drew Carey Show Whose Line Is It 10:00 Ally McBeal 11:00 The Oprah Winfrey 12:00 The Practice

Fashion TV The Bold & The Beauti-Mork & Mindy Happy Days



EKUSHEY: 3:30 p.m. Kena Kata. This episode of shopping spectacular focuses on the available Bengali foods in city's different restaurants. Apart timetable of different shopping malls and Baby Naznin in Star Shopping.



EKUSHEY: 9:00 p.m. Shesh Obhinoy. Tuhin and Tanu are cousins and grew up together. They both study at the Institute of Fine Arts. One day when Tanu's marriage is fixed both of them realised that they have something else for each other apart from

4:00 The Simpsons

6:00

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3rd Rock From The

STAR News Asia

**Buffy The Vampire** 

Buffy The Vampire

3rd Rock From The

Creflo Dollar Daily

Kenneth Copeland

Life in the Word With

Star News Asia

Angel

Friends

Slayer

12:30 Buffy The Vampire

10:30 Angel

11:30 Millennium

Angel

Ministries

Joyce Meyer

World News

Mork & Mindy

STAR Geetmala

Sangeet Toppers

Fox Kids Daily

Musafir Hoon Yaaron

Media TV

STAR PLUS

Sanskruti

Hit Ya Fit

Aatma

10:30 Small Wonder

12:30 Sangeet Toppers

Sanskruti

Kahaani Ghar Ghar

Kyunki Saas Bhi

Kabhi Bahu Thi

11:00 Pal Chhin

**11:30** Saahil

12:00 Sansar

Millennium

STAR WORLD: 11:30 p.m. Martial Law. Thieves Among Thieves: Sammo and Terrell infiltrate a gang of jewel thieves, but are then stolen away by a 'super

gang' which robs the other thieves.

3:00 Shagun Meri Saheli 4:30 Kaahin Kissii Roz

Pal Chhin 5:00 5:30 Sangeet Toppers 6:00 Small Wonder 6:30 Fox Kids-Daily 7:30 Sanskruti

8:00 Hum Saat Saath Hain 8:30 Ma Shakti 9:00 Kaahin Kissii Roz 9:30 Kora Kagaz 10:00 Kangan 10:30 Kahaani Ghar Ghar Kii 11:00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi

12:00 Shagun 12:30 Telebrands Sangeet Toppers 1:30 Meri Saheli 2:00 Kalas 2:30 Sonnari 3:00 Pal Chhin

Saahil 3:30 4:00 Sansar Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 5:00 Saahil 5:30 Sangeet Toppers

**STAR MOVIES** 6:15 Thomas Crown Affair 8:15 Total Recall **10:15** Heist, The

PICK OF THE DAY



Nicholas and Alexandra On HBO 10:00 p.m.

1904 a backward Russia is in need of reform, and Tsar Nicholas II is given the honors. Trouble is, he doesn't think things are as bad as they seem and he is as cowardice as he is uncompromising. The fact that he's married to Alexandra, a German, doesn't sit well with the Russian's either, who would rather not have a foreigner as their Czarina.

11:45 Rocky III ModSquad 3:15 Turner and hooch Deceived 5:00

> 10:30 Total Recall 12:30 Enterapment 2:30 Turner and Hooch 4:30 Hotile Hostages CHANNEL [V] 7:30 [V] So Long Gone

1:00 [V] FDFS 1:30 [V] Hit Machine [V] PO [V] 2:00

Hotile Hostages 8:45 LakePlacid

[V] Jumpstart 10:30 [V] Hit Machine 12:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox 9:30 [V] Jungli Jukebox 10:00 [V] FDFS 10:30 [V] LIFW 11:00 Late Night 12:00 Hit Machine 12:30 So Long Gone

[V] Hit Machine

Very [V] [V] Hit Machine

[V] Hotline

4:30

5:30

7:30

1:00 Hit Machine **ZEE TV** 6:00 Yaadon Ke Pal 6:30 Aalaap Yoga For Life 7:00

7:30 Jagran Zee Gym & Eat Healthy 8:20 News 8:30 Ardhangini 8:45 Yaadein Radio Ceyion Ki 9:00 Nickelodeon on Zee

9:30 Nickelodeaon 10:00 Guldasta 10:30 Shri 420 11:00 Ek Tukda Chand Ka 12:00 Woh Haseen Pal

Manzilien Apni Apni 1:00 1:25 Jhalak Koi Apna Sa 1:30 Choti Maa Ek Anokha 2:00 Bandhan

Gharana 3:00 JurratFeature Film 6:00 Ek Nazar Nickeldeon On Zee Nickelodeon

6:30 7:00 7:30 Ek Nazar Hip Hip Hurray 8:00 Ek Tukda Chand Ka 8:30 9:00 Amanat

Choti Maa Ek Anokha 9:30 Bhandhan

Sportsline Tonight Sailing Sailing World Futbol Mundial 9:30 Cricket talk Show Harsha Online 10:30 Sportsline Tonight

Kenya @ India 6th Odi 12:30 Sportsline Tonight Fim World Motorcycle Championship 2001

Futbol Mundial 3:00 the Future Karting Series 2001 Wigan England Highlights Sportsline Tonight

4:00 Watersports World 5:00 Sportsline Tonight Sailing Volvo Ocean

10:00 Koi Apna Sa

11:00 Dollar Bahu

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9:00

Tara Rum

8:30 Hit Pe Hit

11:00 Just Jammir

11:30 Music Box

12:00 Music Plus

1:00 Hit Pe Hit

Jharokha

Cool Age

Tara Rum

Hit Pe Hit

Music Box

Music Plus

Hit Pe Hit

Pyaar Mohabbat Etc

Artist of the Fortnight

Hit Mix

Blue

9:30 Music Box

10:00 Sizzlers

5:30 Sizzlers

**ALPHA TV** 

10:30 Jharokha

10:30 Hit Mix

11:30 Top of The Tops

**BANGLA** 10:30 Aan Bhi Ateet

12:00 Gharana 7:30 12:30 Bol Radha Bol-Thursday 8:00

Baat Ek Raat Ki-Feature 8:30 9:00

5:30 News in Hindi 9:05 **ZEE CINEMA** Toofan-Feature Film

Kuch Lamhe Kuch 10:30 Tritiyo Purush Dadamoni-A Tribute To The Legend-Ashok 12:00 Daur

Kumar 9:45 Movie Fare 1:00 10:00 Mehmaan-Feature Film Cine News 2:00 Nayantara Madhyantar

2:30 Teri Meharbaniya Feature Film 5:00 Darpan 5:30 Gandharbi Tara Rum

Film Time Grohon 6:30 Gehraai-Feature Film 7:00 Chatpati Chat 7:30 Ki Likhi Tomai Top of The Tops 8:00 Nayantara Ghulam-Feature Film 8:30 Tara Rum

Kuch Lamhe Kuch 9:45 Ingeet Nagme 10:15 Football Thakur Jarnail Singh-10:45 Ek Palake Feature Film 10:50 News 10:55 Fk Palake

Chehren **ZEE MUSIC** 11:00 Triyo Purush 11:30 News Music Plus Aalaap

12:00 Shesh Prashna 12:55 Ek Palake 12:30 Bangla Feature Film Bharat Bhraman 3:30

4:00 Navantara 4:30 Ek Akasher Niche

5:30 Football HALLMARK

Influence 2:00 Season II 2:30 Katts and Dog 3:00 Steve Martini's Undue Influence

5:00 6:00 The Boys Next Door 10:00 Sea Change

4:00 Sea Change Star Trek: Voyager 5:00 6:00 Sliders Season III 7:00 Contract for Murder

#### **ESPN**

11:30 Aaj Ki Baat

6:00 MLB Championship Series American League Championship Series Game #1 9:00 Italian Serie A Football Italian Serie A 2001/2002

11:00 MLB Championship Series American League Championship Series Game #2 Sportscenter 3:00 MLB Championship Series American League Championship

6:00 UEFA Champions League 2001/02 UEFA Champions League Group Phase 1 Matchday 4 Sportscenter Hindi 8:30 World Cup Mix

**UEFA Champions** 

League 2001/02 UEFA

9:00

Champions League Matchday 4 11:30 Sportscenter Hindi 12:00 Western Union World Football 12:30 NFL Programming Beginner's Guide to American Football

1:00 MLB Championship Series American League Championship Series Game #2 Sportscenter Bristol, CT 5:00 Sportscenter Hindi **STAR SPORTS** 

South Africa Cricket

South Africa Tri Series

Port Elizabeth, South Africa Kenya @ India 6th Odi, Highlgihts 7:30 Sportsline Today 8:30 English premier League Highlights League

**SPORTS** 9:30 Samsung Nations Cup 2001 Athens, Grece Hghlights 10:30 Tennis Masters Series By Mercedes-Benz Stuttgart, Germany

> 12:30 Sportsline Today 1:00 English Premier football League English Premier Football League 2001/02 Blackburn, **England West Ham** Rovers South Africa Cricket

South Africa Tri Series Centurion, Elizabeth, South Africa Kenya @ India 6th Odi, 1st Session 5:30 South Africa Cricket South Africa Tri Series Elizabeth, South Africa

2nd Session

Kenya @ India 6th Odi,

Early Round Coverage 11:00 South Africa Cricket South Africa Tri Series Elizabeth, South Africa

Phillip Island Australia

**11:05** Dil Se 11:35 Phoren Maal **12:35** Shabab Go Kart Champions of 1:05 Music Box 1:30 Jharokha 2:00 Hit Pe Hit 3:00 **Next Generation** Tara Rum Phoren Maal

### 6:00 Sheshprashna

7:00 Grohon News

Surer Ei Dharana Dharav Kichu Smriti Kichu Gaan

Bharat Bhraman 9:30 Nijei Nayak Talk Jhal Misti

11:00 Sheshprashna 11:30 Grohon 12:30 Chena Mukher Shari

1:30 Ek Akasher Niche Tumi Je Amar-Feature

Surer Ei Jharna Dharay 6:00 News

Shesh Prashna Ek Akasher Niche 9:15 Chena Mukh Shari

11:55 Ek Palake

3:00 Surer Ei Jharnadhara 5:00 Chena Mukher Shari

12:00 Steve Martini's Undue

Sesame Street

8:00 Contract for Murder 11:00 Daisies in December 1:00 Sliders Season III Sesame Street 3:00 Clifford 3:30 Caillou

9:00 Star Trek: Voyager

10:00 Neil Simon's The Sun-