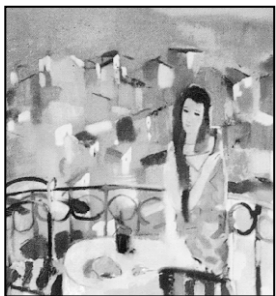


## RECOMMENDATIONS



## Exhibition by Russian artists

The Russian Cultural Centre, Dhaka organises a show of contemporary art by Russian artists Poliakov Vasily and Persidskiy Konstantin which opens today at Exhibition Hall of the Russian Cultural Centre, House # 510, Road # 7, Dhanmondi R/A. This exhibition is dedicated to mark the 30th Anniversary of diplomatic tie between Bangladesh and Russia.

## Art show of three Bengali pioneers

An exhibition showcasing works of pioneer artists Zairul Abedin, Qamrul Hassan and S.M. Sultan--of Bangladeshi art movement is being held at the Bengal Gallery of Fine Arts at Dhanmondi. This show is the second of a series presented from the collection of Abul Khair, chairman of Bengal Foundation. The exhibition will be open from January 12 to February 7, 2002 from 12 p.m. till 8 p.m. everyday.

## Group Art Show

The 45th Grand Group Art Exhibition of leading Bangladeshi artists organised by Saju Art Gallery is now being held at its gallery space at Gulshan, North Super Market 2nd circle. The month-long show, open to all, will run until February 7 from 10 am to 8:30 pm barring Fridays.

## 2nd solo exhibition

The 2nd solo art exhibition by artist Rezaul Hoque Lito is being held at the High Commission of India Cultural Centre (754 Satmasjid Road, Dhanmondi). The exhibition will remain open for all from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. everyday, till January 24.

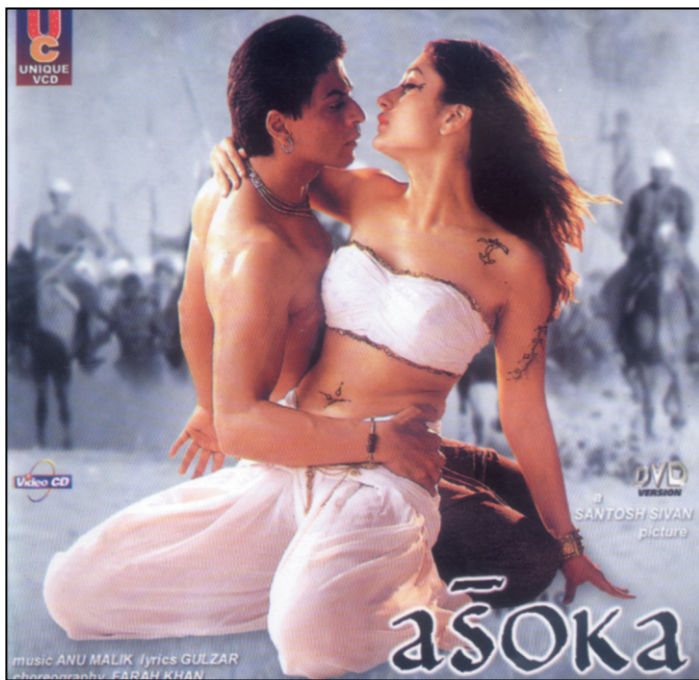
## Satranji Exhibition

A Satranji exhibition is being held at the Alliance Francaise de Dhaka. The exhibition will continue everyday from 9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. and 5:00 - 8:00 p.m. till January 23.

## Film festival

## A festival of stars

7th Dhaka International Film Festival opens today



Films like 'Asoka', 'Lagaan', 'Zubeidaa' and 'Sisters' are expected to pull a huge crowd

## AZIZ AMIRUL

THE enthusiasm that evolved around the recently concluded short film festival is once again certain to re-emerge among the cine-goers. The 7th Dhaka International Film Festival, organised by Rainbow Film Society, is scheduled to kick off at the auditorium of Central Public Library at 4 o'clock this afternoon. Exhibition of local and foreign films will also take place at Goethe Institut, Indian High Commission Cultural Center, Russian Cultural Center and at five other public cinema halls in the city. This year's festival theme reads, 'Cinema: Endorsement of Values'.

Justice Habibur Rahman, a former Chief Advisor of Care-taker Government, is expected to attend the ceremony as Chief Guest. Kishwar Kamal of Rainbow Film Society will preside over the ses-

sion. Marghub Morshed, Secretary to the Ministry of Information will be present as Special Guest.

A number of delegates from different countries have already arrived in the city and rest of the total of 45 renowned film critics and related personalities are on their way to Dhaka to participate in the weeklong extravaganza. Five Seminars, to be held at the Liberation War Museum at 3 p.m. daily from January 21 till 25, would focus on various aspects and issues of cinema and video technology, trend of Bangladeshi and Asian cinema, genocide and repression on women during our War of Liberation and so on. Local and foreign guests would act as discussants in the events.

This year's festival is expected to feature at least 100 films from Australia, Iran, India, Japan, Sri Lanka, Egypt, Germany, Britain, United States, Croatia, Latvia,



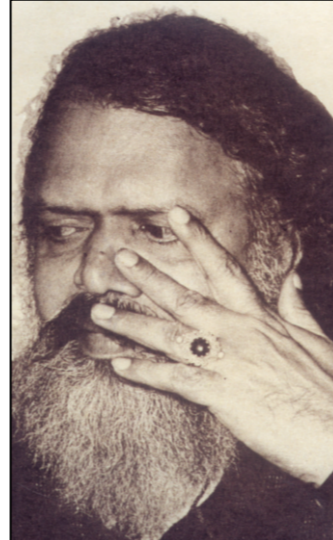
Switzerland, France, Russia, Hungary, Rwanda, Bhutan and Bangladesh. The films comprise of a variety of themes, broadly divided into 7 categories those of World, Asian Community, Children's, Retrospective, Tribute, Genocide and Focus. Most of the films to be exhibited in the festival have reached the city with a few more to arrive within a day or two.

A special session on genocide-related films from various corners of the globe would be a highlight. US, French, German and Bangladeshi filmmakers are to present their production on mass murder and war crime and reveal the past harrowing tales of cruelty and injustice done to the people of these countries.

It would be a huge assemblage of films yet one could remain certain of the fact that some outstanding presentations by renowned filmmakers of Russian, Iranian and

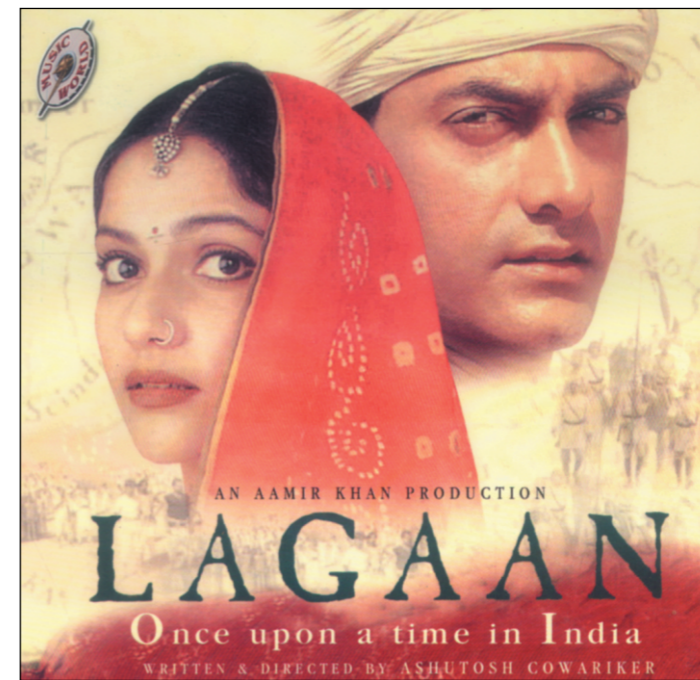
French origin would steal the show.

**Sisters**, a Russian story of two



G. Aravindan, a film director of India

siblings, growing up in separate environments, one with the parents



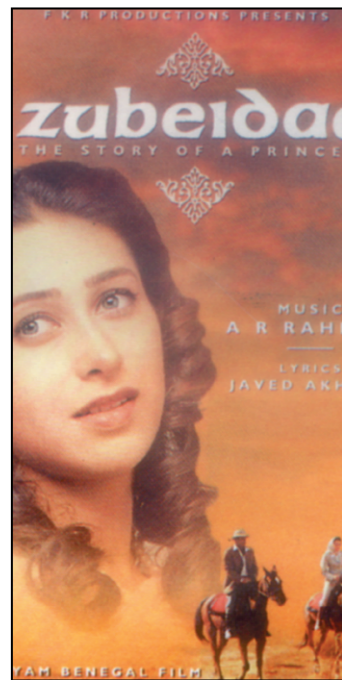
and the other in her granny's custody, happen to end up at the same surrounding at a particular stage of their eventful life. The nature of close sisterly affection between the two in an adult world depicts the psychological impact of children when exposed among the unknown society of harsh reality.

Renowned French director Jean-Luc Godard would be among the viewers through several of his films some of which include **AlphaVille**, **Little Soldier**, **Betty**, **Death is my Trade** among other retrospectives.

In the highly interesting synopsis of **AlphaVille**, Lemmy Caution is sent on a mission to meet and set free Professor Von Braun and if he refuses to kill him. Computer-run humans inhabit AlphaVille, the city of future. A Technological tyranny is on the throne of dominance and words like 'I Love You' is strictly prohibited there.

Indian films of recent appraisal include **Lagaan**, **Zubeidaa**, **Asoka**, all of Hindi origin while Bengali filmmakers Buddhodev Das Gupta and Rituparna Ghosh are to present their production of **Uttara** and **Bariwali**. Around 18 films of different types from India would feature in the meet.

**Jesus Goes to India**, a highly acclaimed production from Switzerland would find place in the festival directed by Indian-born Swiss filmmaker Preeti Chandrakant. **From Briarwood to Barishal to Brick Lane**, a documentary done by Sanchita Islam, a British-Bengali videographer-cum-painter, would also be shown besides 10 superb entries from Iran, directed by renowned Iranian film personalities Mohsen Makhmalbaf and Jafar Panahi, a former assistant to Abbas Kiarostami. **The White Balloon**, a much-talked film by Panahi is a



notable entry from Iran.

Among the genocide-based cinemas, **100 Days** is a significant number that has been jointly made by UK and Rwanda showing the barbarism that took place in the Rwanda during recent wars in the country.

The Dhaka Film Festival, organised by the members of Rainbow Film Society, has reached its seventh edition gathering immense experience and support from the loyal fans of refined cinema. This year's festival holds the axiom, 'Cinema: Healthy Trend'.

It is a firm belief of all that through hosting of such festivals, the promoters of sophisticated cinema would pave way for creating a favourable atmosphere where the social issues and objectives would prosper as the chief subject of films. The film festival ends on January 28, 2002.

## Music

## A new singer on the block

Kafil Ahmed's maiden music album released



Poet Shamsur Rahman speaks at the inauguration ceremony

## CULTURE DESK

POET Shamsur Rahman released an audiocassette and compact disk of classical songs composed and sung by Kafil Ahmed, at the 'Naatmondol' of Dhaka University on January 17.

Titled 'Pakhir Danay Darun Shakti Gorur Chokhey Maya', the album is of the same artist who composed a popular number 'Tarunno O' Taarona'. Ghora Utra Audio Vision, recording company of the artist, hosted the ceremony to release the first cassette and CD of the artist.

Poet Shamsur Rahman felt quite encouraged about Kafil Ahmed. 'Kafil's songs have some unique qualities within and he should be regarded as a poet'. In personal views of the grand old man of Bengali poetry, Kafil Ahmed maintained a poetic instinct in his inner conscience and expressed strong messages through his enlightening songs. Rahman seemed quite confident about Kafil's success in the music world.

In his speech, Poet Shamsur Rahman further mentioned that the artist had to strive hard against all social and communal odds to maintain purity of his music.

Three songs of the album were performed including 'Shat-ta

Shonkho Ek-Barey Bajabo'. A discussion program followed on the topic of the strengths and revolutionary notions of Kafil's compositions. Discussants included folk singer Kamruddin Absar, sketch artist Salam Abdus and Rakib Parvez of the concerned recording company besides, Poet Shamsur Rahman and Poet Mohammad Rafique.

Sajjad Parvej presided over the entire ceremony.

At the end of the discussion, the singer rendered songs along with chorus performance from **Dhabaman** and **Matridihara**, both being cultural organisations of the city.

Kafil Ahmed, a folk-based singer of the Haor region of Kishoreganj, has continued with the art of vocal performance since the last 12 years or perhaps more. The songs have become rich in lyrical note, complete with issues of psychological strength and revolutionary spirit.

Human pain and sufferings of the present time have created a firm spot in the songs' verse and overall composition. As the singer has traveled a lot across the country, it has become a very easy job for him to successfully inspire the community in issues of psychological encouragement through his performance of self-composed songs.

## Reception

## An evening to remember

Dhaka pays tribute to Soumitra Chattapadhaya at a reception organised by Nriyanchal on January 11

## TAWFIQUE ALI

AS part of Nriyanchal Festival-2002, Nriyanchal dedicated an evening to the world class actor and cultural personality Soumitra Chattapadhaya of West Bengal to show him heartfelt regard and honour through a reception held at Bangladesh Shilpakala Academy auditorium.

The evening opened with screening of some film clippings like **Aupur Songsar**, **Saatpakey Bandha**, **Monihar**, **Parmitar Ekdin**, **Lathi** -- a number of remarkable films which Soumitra acted in and left a lasting impression on the audience's mind.

Shamim Ara Nipa, one of the founding organisers of Nriyanchal, greeted this actor of legendary stature with flower bouquet on the stage. Muhammad Jahangir, Nriyanchal Coordinator, received the silver screen hero with a crest accompanied by huge applause in the audience gallery. Another founding organiser of Nriyanchal, Shibli Mohammad followed next to honour him with a gift. During these formalities in an informal mood of atmosphere, all the admirers and audience as a whole, poured their adoration in silence. While handing over the crest to Soumitra, Jahangir said, "We, on this occasion, would like to honour this extraordinary actor on behalf of all the cultural activists of the country."



Soumitra Chattapadhaya



Soumitra Chattapadhaya receives a gift in the evening dedicated to him

Several cultural bodies of the country availed an opportunity to shower their tributes to this giant figure of the sub-continent's cultural arena. Golam Kuddus of Sammilta Sangskiti Jote; M. Hamid of Group Theatre Federation; Prabir Sirker of Udichi; Anwar Hossain Pintu of Satyajit Charcha Kendra in Chittagong; and many more paid their tributes on behalf of their respective organisations.

Soumitra launched a commemorative book published to mark the occasion.

In a brief complimentary note, country's noted TV and film personality Golam Mostafa remarked, "I envy Soumitra Chattapadhaya for reaching such a height of excellence as an actor. He has availed himself of opportunities to have worked with almost all the front ranking film directors of the 20th century. On the other hand, I am proud of him as he is a Bangalee actor and I myself too am a

Bangalee."

A warm love, honour, enthusiasm and compliment poured by his Bangladeshi admirers on the occasion, it was evident, emotionally stirred him. Soumitra was so glad that he could hardly express himself when invited to make a response to the reception evening which the organisers termed as 'Soumitra Evening'.

Though emotionally imbued, a composed Soumitra raised to the dais and spoke, "Very naturally, I am taken by overwhelming honour and warmth of your heart. It is pretty difficult to put myself under restraint having been accorded such warm and hearty tributes. I have received many things from you for last couple of days. My noblest gift is to get recognition from those whom I act for. But I feel indebted to the regards you have shown to me. I have ardently been longing to serve the humanity since my childhood. I will be making my best efforts to give

you pleasure as long as my physical and mind permit me and thus I'll try to lessen my indebtedness."

What enthralled the audience most was perhaps Soumitra's powerfully impressive solo poetry recital. Recital opened with 'Banalata Sen' -- a very popular romantic poem by Jibanananda Das. The audience got swept away with reverberation of a powerful manly vocal of the performer to the world of a tranquil nature which evolves around a peace giving beloved depicted in the piece. Soumitra went performing a couple sonnets from **Rupashi Bangla**, last being **Aabar Aashiba Fire ... Dhanshintir Teerey** in which the poet eloquently glorifies the universal beauty of riverine Bengal that he can not part with.

The following recital was of Tagore poems beginning with **Jharer Diney**. Satirical note of **Totakahini** -- a piece by Tagore, remarkably stirred the audience.

This piece playfully attacks drawbacks and inconsistency of a pompous education system which virtually proves to be fruitless. Though quite contemporary today the issue was thought of and satirised by Tagore about seventy years back when he wrote this poem.

Soumitra Chattapadhaya is a distinguished name in the world of Bangla film. His coronation in this world was marked by his acting in the film **Aupur Songsar** directed by Satyajit Ray in 1959. He has enjoyed a full command in this field till the film **Dekha** by Goutam Ghosh. An accomplished actor like him is rare all over the sub-continent.

Satyajit Ray had a high notion of Soumitra Chattapadhaya. In a

complimentary note he maintained, "I need not to testify Soumitra's worth. Out of a total of my twenty-seven films, he has played the central character in fourteen. This very fact implies how profoundly I trust on him and what status I position him with as an actor. As a filmmaker, I believe, I will rely upon him till the last day of my life."

The audience savoured an added pleasure from a question-answer session with Soumitra. They appreciated an opportunity to know more of their favourite actor.

Bangladeshi admirers will cherish "Soumitra Evening" in their memory to reminisce a legendary actor to the generation to come.

## A commemorative book on Soumitra

A commemorative book on Soumitra Chattapadhaya, was brought out by Nriyanchal, contains essays, a collection of poems dedicated to Soumitra and interviews by a host of writers from Dhaka and Kolkata. Published to mark 'Soumitra Evening' the book, titled **Soumitra Chattapadhaya**, carries an elaborate assessment of life and works of this legendary actor. This memorial volume is supposed to satisfy inquisitiveness of Soumitra's admirers in this country.

Perhaps the most creative and rising part of Soumitra's life as an actor had been with Satyajit Roy. In a very precise testimonial note, which has accordingly been included in the collection, this world acclaimed film director enormously asserts Soumitra's talent and capability. An essay by Tanvir Mokammel, analytically features Soumitra's creative aspects as an actor. Contemporary representative Bengali poets like Amitav Chowdhury, Purnenda Patri,

Alauddin Al-Azad and Subhash Mukhopadhyaya, among others, depict Soumitra in their poems, compiled in the book. The host of essay contributors include Shamsur Rahman, Abdullah Al-Mamun, Abul Monem, Anwar Hossain Pintu, Sunil Gongu Padhyaya, Sham Benegal, Pranab Chattapadhaya, Mrinal Sen, Deva Dulal Bandopadhyaya, Bijoya Roy, Abul Momen and more. Moreover, there is an interview taken by Anusua Roy Chowdhury published in book form by Kolkata **Krantik Prokashani** and two essays respectively on 'Satyajit Roy' and 'Aubhinooy and Rajniti' by Soumitra Chattapadhaya. The book also contains a section of photographs piled with valuable still shots from films like **Debi**, **Charulata**, **Aubhijan**, **Punashcha**, **King Lear**, **Aupur Sangshar**, **Jagua**, **Aushani Sanket**, **Sonar Kella** and **Dekha** in which he has acted.



Soumitra Chattapadhaya Co-edited by Muhammad Jahangir and Anwar Hossain Pintu. Published by Mowla Brothers, Pages : 136, Price : Tk. 125, ISBN 984 410 278 2.