

## Celebration

# Bangladesh Film Archive to celebrate its silver jubilee

Even after twenty five years, full potential not realised

## KAUSAR ISLAM AYON

**B**ANGLADESH Film Archive will hold a three-day celebration to mark its silver jubilee next month. The archive, which is a Directorate of the Information Ministry, was established with the objective to preserve the culture and the heritage using films as the media.

A high up official of the archive says that they have finalised the three-day schedule of celebration. They now await the final approval from the Ministry.

The celebration is to begin with a colourful inauguration ceremony. Exhibition of archival products,

publishing a commemorative issue, reunion of the archive employees and cultural activists are in the primary schedule. Besides, discussion sessions, seminar, symposium and cultural programmes will also be held.

One of the major tasks of the Archive is to collect both local and foreign films and film related publications to preserve them in a scientific way. The organisation also arranges seminars, displays, symposiums, workshops and meetings. Bangladesh Film Archive very disappointingly now preserves only 909 films of different categories, of them 240 feature films while the rest are documentaries. There is a

library of film related publications which possesses a collection of about 7,000 issues.

In the year 1975, at the request of the Bangladesh Film Sangsad, Professor Satish Bahadur of the Puni Film Institute formulated the primary structure for the Bangladesh archive. He said that films should be considered an important reflection of the society. He emphasised that the archive should be given the equal importance as a library or museum. He also suggested that it should be set up as an autonomous organisation.

Later on, the Bangladesh government formed a committee of specialists to formulate the final

scheme. The specialised committee proposed a 'Film Institute and Archive'.

After some modification, the Bangladesh government approved the committee on February 17, 1978 and on the same year in June 22, the archive began its journey.

The total budget for the establishment was Taka 15 crores but the government allotted only Taka 50 lakhs. Due to lack of funds, the institute was bifurcated for the time being.

On April 1980, the Bangladesh Film Archive received membership in the International Federation of Film Archives.

## Event

## Second SAARC Cultural Celebrations come to an end

**T**HE second SAARC cultural four-day celebration, held to create a stronger bond between the South Asian countries, came to an end on April 2, says a press release. The Minister of Cultural Affairs, Begum Selima Rahman, officially declared the end of the celebrations which were held at the Osmani Memorial Hall. On the last day of the festival, a Nepali team presented special pieces of musical compositions and dances from their country.

Begum Selima Rahman remarked in her speech

that festivals of this type, where different elements from different countries and cultures meet, should be encouraged more in the future. The secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Muddabir Hussain Choudhury, said that the countries in South Asia have a rich cultural heritage. When displayed together, the output is spectacular.

The countries that participated in this festival were India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan and the host country, Bangladesh.



Dancers from Pakistan perform at the show

## Inauguration of the week-long drama festival

## ERSHAD KAMOL

Bangladesh Shilpkala Academy (BSA) has arranged a week-long drama festival at the National Theatre Stage. Selima Rahman, the State Minister for Cultural Affairs, inaugurated the drama festival in the Academy building on April 4, 2004. Eight theatre groups from different parts of the country are taking part in the festival.

Ahmed Nazir, the Director General of BSA, was the chairperson of the inaugural programme while Selima Rahman, the State Minister for Cultural Affairs, was the chief guest and Modabir Hossain Choudhury, the Secretary of the Ministry of Cultural Affairs was the special guest.

In his opening speech, SM Mohsin, the Director of the Film and Drama Department of BSA, said: 'BSA has been arranging drama festivals since 1981. However this is the first time that they are holding the festival at the newly built Experimental Theatre Hall of National Theatre Stage.'

In the words of Selima Rahman: 'It is good news for the theatre groups from outside Dhaka that they will get a chance to prove their standard to the city dwellers.'

Modabir Hossain Choudhury said that the Ministry of Cultural Affairs will try to hold such programmes regularly.

Ahmed Nazir mentioned the history of our drama in his speech.

Moreover, he reiterated BSA's support to drama.

After the speech, Chetona Theatre from Norail staged *Aango Lal Mia* by Mahabubur Rahman Piku. The play is a tribute to our great painter SM Sultan, known as Lal Mia to his native people of Norail. Sultan believed, 'The man who has taken a paintbrush in his hand can never take up arms.' The play portrays the fight between an artist who represents the morality of the society and a chairperson who represents evil.

Shonglap, a University passed student returns to his home district Norail where he works with a theatre group. The group wishes to use art as a weapon of protest against all kinds of injustice in society. At one stage,

Shonglap becomes very popular among the villagers and they want to make him their next chairperson. However, Shonglap is killed in a clash with the cadres of the current chairperson of the village. Before his death, the protagonist of the play requests his comrades to spread the message of SM Sultan in all corners of the country.

Though the play had a powerful theme, there was much room for improvement in the direction of Mahabubur Rahman Piku. In the final analysis, the show was not up to the mark.

## Down memory lane

## Suchitra Sen celebrates her 70th birthday today

**S**UCHITRA Sen, the most popular actress that Bangla cinema has ever seen, celebrates her 70th birthday today. Her ethereal beauty, coupled with her phenomenal acting talent and immense box office popularity, particularly her on-screen pairing with the late Uttam Kumar, gave her a legendary cult status in Bengal. She in fact created a new image in Bangla cinema of the articulate if tragic heroine carving an independent space outside that of family and tradition.

She was born Roma Sen in Patna, Bihar. Her debut was in the unreleased *Shesh Kothai* made in 1952. The following year saw her act opposite Uttam Kumar for the first time in *Sharey Chuattar*. The film, an effervescent comedy, was also the breakthrough film of director Nirmal Dey and was a huge hit at the box-office. However it is remembered more for launching the on screen pair of Kumar and Sen. They went on to become icons of Bangla romantic melodramas for over 20 twenty years. Some popular films of the pair include *Shap Mochan* (1955), *Sagarika* (1956), *Harano Sur* (1957), *Saptapadi* (1961), *Bipasha* (1962) and *Grihadah* (1967).

One of Suchitra's best known performances was in *Deep Jweley Jai* (1959). She played Radha, a hospital nurse and is expected to develop a personal relationship with male patients as part of the therapy. Asit Sen remade the film in Hindi as *Khamoshi* with Waheeda Rehman in the Suchitra Sen role.

But perhaps Suchitra's biggest



Suchitra Sen is remembered for her unparalleled acting and enigmatic smile

histrionic triumph was *Saat Pake Bandha* (1963). Suchitra Sen's sensitively etched and finely nuanced performance won her the Best Actress Award at the Moscow International Film Festival in 1963 and the film itself was the basis for *Kora Kaagaz* (1974) starring Jaya Bhaduri in the Suchitra Sen role.

While her screen presence in her Hindi films was as stunning as ever, perhaps because of language problems her performances look a little stilted and refined in. Her first Hindi film was Bimal Roy's *Devdas* (1955) where she played Parvati to Dilip Kumar's Devdas. She made a huge impact with Gulzar's *Aandhi* (1975), playing a powerful woman

politician separated from her husband, Sanjeev Kumar, on account of her busy political career. *Aandhi* however ran into controversy due to her role which was based on Indira Gandhi and was even banned for a while.

She retired from the screen in 1978 and has since gone into almost Greta Garbo-like seclusion. A devotee of Ramakrishna Mission, Suchitra now immerses herself in meditation and prayer. Her daughter Moon Moon Sen and grand daughters Riya and Raima are all actresses as well.

Compiled from the Internet

## In memorium

## Kurt Cobain: A turbulent life

**A** decade after his death, Kurt Cobain is still feted by his many fans as the voice of his generation.

His band Nirvana emerged in the US towards the end of the Reagan era. His lyrics were often bleak and uncompromising - whether detailing his personal trials or ranting against corporate America - and delivered in a strained vocal style that could seem like a howl of rage. 'Since the age of seven, I've become hateful towards all humans in general,' he wrote in his suicide note.

His early childhood was difficult, and at the age of four he was prescribed medication for hyperactivity. Aged nine, his mechanic father Donald and mother Wendy divorced, and Kurt went to live with his father in a trailer park.

At 12, he saw photographs of the Sex Pistols in a rock magazine. It was the moment he knew he wanted to be in a punk band 'before I had not even heard any punk music'. By 14, he had his first guitar.

'I'm going to be a super star musician, kill myself and go out in a flame of glory,' he told a school friend.

Nirvana was formed in 1987 after Cobain joined bassist Krist Novoselic and drummer Dale Crover to record a demo. A debut single and album followed, and by 1991 the band (with Dave Grohl replacing Crover on drums) had recorded the album *Nevermind* - their masterpiece, containing the band's anthem *Smells Like Teen Spirit*.

He met Hole singer Courtney Love at a concert in 1991, and the couple were married in Hawaii the following year. A daughter, Frances Bean, was born six months later.

On April 1, 1994, he left a rehab centre in California and was later reported missing. A week later, electrician Gary Smith called at his cottage overlooking Lake Washington to carry out some work, and found Cobain's body

on the floor with a shotgun next to it. He was 27.

His death robbed the rock world of a prolific talent. But his legacy as a musician shows no signs of waning.

Compiled from the Internet



Kurt Cobain

## TV GUIDE

All programmes are in local time. The Daily Star will not be responsible for any change in the programme.

## News Bulletin

**BTV**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 9:40 am, 12:10 pm, 2:00 pm, 3:10 pm, 4:00 pm, 7:00 pm.  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 1:00 pm, 5:00 pm, 8:00 pm.  
News (English) at 3:00 pm, 10:00 pm, Late Night News(Bangla and English) 11:30 pm.

**CHANNEL-i**  
Breakfast News 07:15 am, 9:00 am News(Bangla) at 7:15 pm, 9:00, 10:30, 12:15 am.

Telecast of BTV news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

**ATN BANGLA**  
News(Bangla) at 8:00 am, 12:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm, 11:00 pm.

Telecast of BTV news(Bangla and English) at 11:30 pm.

Latest News(Bangla) at 09:00 am, 10:00 a.m., 11:00 am, 1pm, 2:00 pm, 3:00 pm, 4:00 pm, 6:00 pm and 8:00 pm.

**ITV**  
News Headlines(Bangla) at 5:02 pm, 6:30 pm, 9:45 pm.

News (Bangla) 7:30 pm, 10:30 pm.

**TARA BANGLA**  
NewsHeadlines(Bangla) at 5:30 pm, 7:30 pm.

Tara News(Bangla) at 8:30 pm, 11:30 pm.

Tara News Bangladesh(Bangla) at 9:30 pm.

**BBC World**

Every hour on the hour

## BTV

07:35 *Suprohat Bangladesh*  
08:25 *Selected Nazrul songs*  
09:15 *Any Bhuban: Ocean Girl*

12:30 *Health programme*

01:05 *Cartoon show: Godzilla*

01:30 *Educational programme: Shabar Jonno Shikhiya*

02:05 *Magazine show: Pawa*

03:05 *Shukhi Poribaar*

03:30 *Children's programme: Aalar Jharnadha*

04:05 *Musical programme: Sangeeta*

04:30 *Open university*

05:05 *Hather kache computer*

06:10 *Nazrul song show: Sandhya Maloty*

07:05 *Quiz show: The Three Stooges*

07:30 *Drama Serial: Sonar horin*

09:00 *Drama Serial: Jael*

09:30 *Drama Serial: Jale tahara chayya*

10:30 *Jibon Bangladesh Moron Bangladesh*

**CHANNEL-i**

09:45 *Tritiyo Matra*

12:00 *Chithi Pelam*

01:00 *Ebong Cinemar Gaan*

01:30 *Sanbadprety*

Bangladesh and public reaction

02:00 *Film show: Ashami bodhu*

05:10 *Sa Re Ma Ga Ma*

05:45 *i Sports*

06:10 *Music Plus*

06:45 *Magazine show: Ananda Bichitra*

## ATN BANGLA

10:15 *Anondristee*  
10:50 *Mega serial: Lal Neel Bagne*

11:25 *Drama serial: Sapo*

12:40 *Bengali feature film: Golagoli*

3:45 *Uro Cola Saat Rang*

04:20 *Samosamoyik*

05:15 *Amar Computer*

05:50 *Islamlee Sawal O Jawab*

06: