

9th Int'l Short &amp; Independent Film Festival Dhaka

## Clarion call to maintain film standards

FAYZA HAQ

THE 9th International Short & independent Film Festival, Dhaka began in the Central Public Library on December 22. This was despite the pervading political unrest in the city and the fact that lesser people turn up each time. The programme was launched by Justice Md Habibur Rahman at the Sufia Kamal Central Public Library, Shahbagh. Litterateur Hasnat Abdul Hye was the Chairperson, and Aminul Islam was the festival director. The venue was decorated with colourful balloons and festoons. The song, "Ganey ganey ... nrito jagey" was rendered with the accompaniment of the "tabla" and the harmonium by the group Ananda Dhwanai. Included in the festival are 160 films of which 45 are entries from Bangladesh. As Abdul Hye put it, "They provide entertainment, aesthetics and experience."

Introductory speeches followed in led by Justice Habibur Rahman, who said that the film festival encourages the flow of culture despite the prevailing turmoil and unrest in the country. He criticised



A scene from *City of Photos*, one of the films being screened at the festival the prevalence of vulgar films commenting "And that is business!" meaning that vulgar commercial films have captured the market.

To this, Rahman added that films like "Rupban" have encouraged young film makers. He said that short film makers comprise only 10% of the total count of film makers in the country. However, he added that this handful of film makers were doing undoubtedly creative work like "Megher Onek Rong". He lauded film personalities like Morshedul Islam and Tanvir Mokammal as well. He said that freedom of expression should be maintained at any cost; since the outset in 1998. He continued to say that the film festivals have presented foreign films to viewers and made them popular.

Dwelling on the types of films, Rahman said that there were all type of films including animated ones. These, he said, came from 27 countries and included 128 films from Asia, USA, Latin America and the former USSR. He explained that digital cameras and computers are now in use. According to him, "The film-makers must not be dependant on the government only." He made a clarion call to uphold the standard.

Hasnat Abdul Hye added that had it not been for the sufficient backing of patrons and film-makers, the tradition of the film

festivals in Dhaka would not be possible. He said that it has its own film aesthetics and that it has been appreciated by critics and discerning audiences. He said that films from all continents except Africa had participated. He also added, "We have received help from ntv, Maachranga, the Culture, Home and Foreign Affairs Ministries etc. Seminars on film-making will follow, with exchange of views."

Aminul Islam, in his turn said it that the festival would run till December 30 and that there would be relevant seminars in the National Museum. He announced that Baby Islam had won the Hirhal Sen Memorial Award and that Tarek Shahriar was the winner of the Independent Short Film Festival Award.

Three remarkable short films in Technicolor from overseas including two from Russia, concluded the festival.

## Closeup 1 grand finale

## Bangladesh finds "the voice" in Nolok

KARIM WAHEED

It was perhaps the biggest event aired live in Bangladesh: *Closeup 1* ended with a bang. The nation has given its verdict: Nolok Babu is the victor. His is the voice Bangladesh has been looking for. At Around 10:30 pm when the results were announced, an emotionally moved Nolok was in tears. He received 7,85,391 votes from Bangladeshi living in the country and overseas. The first runner-up Razib received a total of 3,13,946 votes and Beauty, the second runner-up received 3,20,328 votes. The points received from the votes combined with scores by the judges decided the winner.

Nolok received a cheque for Tk 10 lakh from the chairperson of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, Sanjeev Mehta, keys to a brand new Nissan Sunny from Ehsanul Haque, executive director of Brac Bank and a 42-inch plasma TV from Obaidur Rahman, director of Transcom Electronics.

First runner-up Razib received a cheque for Tk five lakh from ntv and a Philips home theatre system from Transcom. Beauty received a cheque for Tk three lakh from Asiatic and a Philips home theatre system from Transcom.

Apart from the top three contestants *Closeup 1* also awarded two participants that demonstrated remarkable valour and determination. Shamapti Roy, a visually impaired contestant whose rendition of Tagore songs charmed the audiences and judges, received the *Closeup Confidence Award* and a cheque of Tk one lakh. Champa Banik received the



(L-R) First runner-up Razib, second runner-up Beauty and the winner Nolok pose for the camera

*Closeup Personality Award* and a cheque for Tk 50,000. Champa, a promising artiste went to Rangpur to participate in the auditions for *Closeup 1* after she was not selected in the Dhaka auditions. She eventually made it to the top 16 of *Closeup 1* but backed off from the contest for the sake of her unborn child, making way for another contestants.

Special attraction of the event was performances by the contestants. Apart from other talented contestants from previous rounds, the "top 10" entertained the guests as well as audiences facing TV screens. Rumi performed *Amae kandale*, Nowrin sang *Krishnochura laal hoyeche* and

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*, a song that stirred a range of emotions in the top 16 round.

Razib sang a patriotic song *Shurjodoye tumi shurjasteo tumi*, Beauty performed a Lalan song *Sharboshadhon shidhdo hoi tar* and Nolok rendered a folk song by Bari Siddiqui, *Amar gaye joto dukhkhoo shoy*.

Abid rendered a Tagore song *Pagla haowar badol dinay*. Sonya and Mahadi performed a film song *Ekhane dujone nirojone*, Mehrab sang a popular number of Miles Neela. Rinku delivered a soulful rendition of *Eshob dekhi kanaa haat-bazaar*. Rashed performed *Ami khujechhi tomae mago*